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BASEBALL

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Dear Reader:

We hope you enjoy our 1992 edition. We have contracted with some of the finest writers in the business and, while I may not agree with all the opinions expressed in *Bill Mazerowski's Baseball*, I am pleased to provide a forum for their ideas and analyses.

Bill Mazerowski
Associate Publisher

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Milt Cuyler, Detroit

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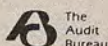
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Joseph J. Colucci, 7011 Lindenmere Dr.,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 (313) 626-9918
FAX (313) 626-5793

MOBILE Barnett Price Associates,
Rhonda Barnett-Price, 3024 Southridge Rd. E.,
Mobile, AL 36693 (205) 661-2079 FAX (205) 661-2079



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A FINAL LOOK AT 1991

SALUTES OF THE YEAR

• **TERRY PENDLETON** — Here's a guy who did something that made agents everywhere proud: He actually gave free agency a (gulp) good name.

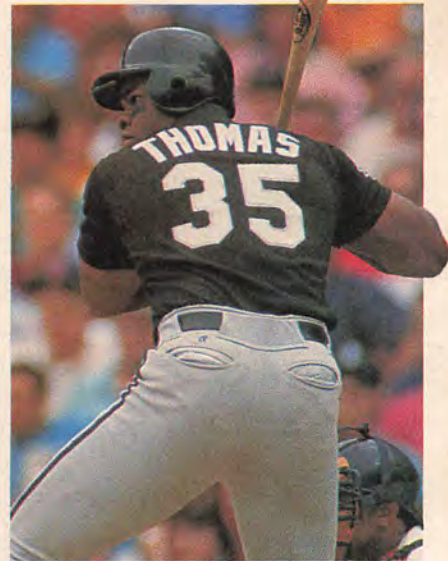
Since the free-agent era dawned in 1976, three free agents (Reggie Jackson, Andre Dawson and Cecil Fielder) had won home run titles in their first year with their new teams. And two (Dawson and Kirk Gibson) had won MVP awards. But *no* free agent had won a batting title — until Pendleton did it for the Braves.

He wound up taking home an MVP trophy while he was at it.

• **CAL RIPKEN JR.** — Then there was the other MVP — old Cal Jr. Before Ripken, no MVP in history had come from a team that lost 95 games. But what the heck. All this guy did was have probably the greatest season ever by an American League shortstop.

Ripken became the first AL shortstop to reach .300, 30 homers and 100 RBIs in one season. He just missed tying Robin Yount's record for most extra-base hits by a shortstop. (Yount had 87 in 1982. Ripken had 85.)

There was no keeping Frank Thomas off the bases.



TWINS,

By Jayson Stark

BRAVES



Oh, and while he was at it, Ripken led AL shortstops in fielding percentage and total chances, and won his first Gold Glove.

• **FRANK THOMAS** — Think of all the great players who have passed through the major leagues in the past 30 years — Mays, Aaron, Mantle, Rose, Schmidt, Morgan, etc. Before last season, only one man (Wade Boggs) had reached base more than 315 times in a season.

But last season, along came an incredible young hitter named Frank Thomas to do it in his *first* full season in the majors — with 178 hits, 138 walks and one hit by pitch.

MVP Terry Pendleton (right) gave free agency a good name for a change. In a World Series for the ages, Jack Morris (left) threw 10 shutout innings in Game 7.



SEVEN REASONS THE BRAVES-TWINS WORLD SERIES WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST OF OUR LIFETIMES

1. If these teams had been any more evenly matched, they would have needed Dr. Frank Jobe to separate them surgically. They played seven times, and staged five one-run games. Only one other World Series — the 1972 A's-Reds extravaganza — had more one-run games (six). But in that Series, only twice did the winning run score after the seventh inning. This Series had five games like that.

2. Don't touch that dial. An unheard-of four games were won on the game's final swing. Before this, no World Series had had more than *two* games decided on the final swing.

3. It's a good thing these guys didn't get paid extra for overtime, because in three of the seven games, nine innings weren't enough. They played 12 innings in Game 3, 11 innings in Game 6 and 10 innings in Game 7. Yeah, that was a record, too.

4. Only one player in history ever hit a

game-winning homer later in any Series game than Kirby Puckett did in the 11th inning of Game 6. That was Carlton Fisk, in the 12th inning of Game 6, 1975. Ever seen that one?

5. When Gene Larkin won Game 7 with a single in the bottom of the 10th, he was the first man to win a Series on the final swing since that Bill Mazeroski character in 1960.

6. Then there was Jack Morris, who pitched 10 shutout innings for the Twins in Game 7. In 87 previous Series, only one other starting pitcher had gone beyond the ninth inning in a sudden-death finale. That was the legendary Christy Mathewson, who went 9 2/3 in Game 8 (after a tie in Game 2) in 1912.

7. And in case you hadn't heard, this was the first Series to match two teams that had finished in last place a mere one year earlier.

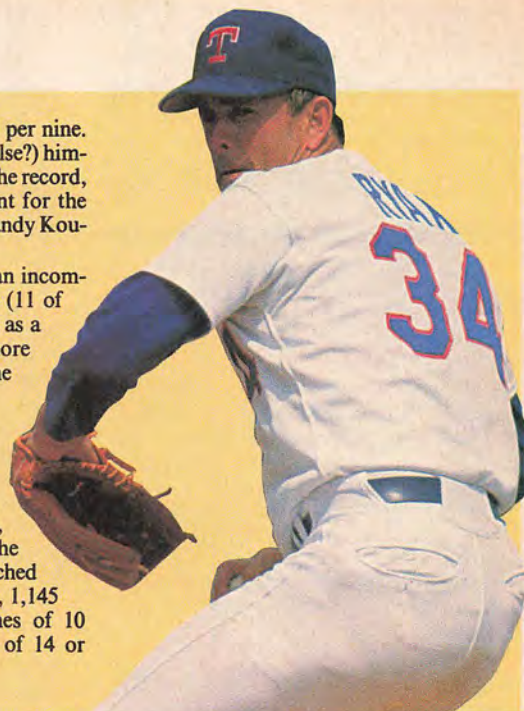
NOLAN RYAN FEATS OF THE YEAR

The most amazing 44-year-old pitcher who ever lived did it again last season. Here are five of the mind-boggling things Nolan Ryan achieved:

- Threw his seventh career no-hitter. That's as many as the following Hall of Famers combined: Walter Johnson, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Lefty Grove, Carl Hubbell, Dizzy Dean, Robin Roberts, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Jim Palmer, Don Drysdale, Juan Marichal and Warren Spahn. Just to name a dozen.
- Racked up six double-figure strikeout games, giving him 51 since he turned 40. Only eight other pitchers had that many in their entire careers. And believe it or not, Ryan now has had more double-figure strikeout games in his 40s than Roger Clemens or Dwight Gooden have had in their 20s.
- Came within one hit of breaking the all-time record for fewest hits per nine innings in

a season. He gave up a measly 5.31 per nine. The record is 5.26 — held by (who else?) himself in 1972. Even though he missed the record, he led his league in that department for the 11th time. Only one other pitcher (Sandy Koufax) did it six times.

- Allowed two hits or fewer in an incomprehensible 41 percent of his starts (11 of 27) and now has 65 career victories as a starter in which he gave up no more than two hits and 125 in which he gave up no more than three hits.
- Became the oldest pitcher in history to strike out 200 hitters in a season, led his league in strikeouts per nine innings for the 12th time, had his 15th 200-strikeout season, pitched just four games in which he had fewer strikeouts than innings pitched and is up to 5,511 career strikeouts, 1,145 different batters fanned, 213 games of 10 strikeouts or more and 35 games of 14 or more strikeouts. Unreal.



CAP UPSIDE DOWN

He was the only player in either league with a .300-plus batting average, a .400-plus on-base percentage and a .500-plus slugging percentage. He was just the fifth player in the past 40 years to reach 30 homers, 100 RBIs, 100 runs scored, a .550 slugging percentage and a .450 on-base percentage.

• **CECIL FIELDER** — It's about time North America came to grips with the fact that this Cecil Fielder-san is no fluke.

This makes 95 homers he's bopped in two years since his escape from Japan. That's the highest two-year total by anyone since Willie Mays crunched 99 in 1964-65.

This also makes 265 RBIs (and two RBI titles) he's racked up the past two years. Nobody had led the AL in RBIs two straight seasons since Roger Maris in 1960-61.

Fielder probably should have received an MVP award out of one of those years. But at least he'll go down as just the fifth American Leaguer in history to finish fifth in the MVP election two years in a row. The others were Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle and Eddie Murray. Not bad company for a former Hanshin Tiger.

• **HOWARD JOHNSON** — The good news is, HoJo became the second switch-hitter (Ripper Collins was the first) to lead the National League in homers. The bad news is, he was the second guy (Ernie Banks was the first) in this century to lead his league in errors and homers in the same season.

The good news is, HoJo joined Bobby Bonds as only the second players in history to enter the 30-30 club (homers, stolen bases) three times. The bad news is, he became the first member of the

HoJo founded the 30-30-30 club (homers, steals...and errors).



'91

30-30-30 club (homers, steals, errors). All those clubs and all those errors aside, he had one heck of a season.

• **ROGER CLEMENS** — Not only did Clemens always have a smile for his favorite men in blue, he had another tremendous season on the mound.

He became the first pitcher in history to win three Cy Young awards before the age of 30. He won his third ERA title, his second strikeout title and his fourth shutout title.

He had the best month of April (4-0, 0.28 ERA) any pitcher has had since Fernando Valenzuela's famed 0.00 April in 1985. And Clemens had streaks of 30 straight innings without a run, 21 straight starts (over two years) without allowing more than two earned runs and 163 straight innings (over two years) without giving up a home run. Is there any doubt that he's the greatest pitcher of his generation?

• **JOSE CANSECO** — Whether you like this man or not, you can't deny he's having an awesome career.

By age 27, he has five 100-RBI seasons. Only one active player has more — Dave Winfield, with seven.

Canseco joined the 200-homer club last

year — in fewer than six full seasons and in only 3,067 at-bats. That's almost exactly the same number as Willie Mays (3,043) and Jimmy Foxx (3,049). And it's a lot faster than Hank Aaron, who needed about 3,800 at-bats.

BEHEADINGS OF THE YEAR

Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be managers. By the time the winter meetings rolled around, 13 of the 26 managers who began the season had been fired or had bailed out for another job.

Things got so wild at one point that three managers (Don Zimmer, John Wathan, Frank Robinson) were canned in a span of three days, May 21-22-23 — something that never had happened in this century. Thank heaven.

As all those heads rolled, nobody could have gotten more of a chuckle out of it than the Dodgers. Since opening day 1954, the Dodgers have changed managers once (from Walter Alston to Tommy Lasorda). The 25 other teams have changed 351 times.

NO-HITTERS OF THE YEAR

We don't know what else the '90s will be remembered for. But one thing that certainly has been accomplished is turning a once-rare feat known as the no-hitter into practically an everyday occurrence. So far, the '90s have cranked out no-hitters at the rate of one about every 3½ weeks. There were seven last season.

The most notable no-no's were authored by precocious Wilson Alvarez and venerable Nolan Ryan. Alvarez's big claim to no-hit fame is that he became just the second pitcher in history who got the first out of his career in a no-hitter. So who was the first? Nope, not Bobo Holloman. He'd worked out of the bullpen for a month before pitching a no-hitter in his first start. It was the legendary Bumpus Jones (no relation to Bump Wills), who threw one in his first game, Oct. 15, 1892.

Nobody's no-hitter was more fun than Ryan's seventh, on May 1, against the Blue Jays. This no-hitter came so long after Ryan's first one — May 15, 1973 — that the Angels second baseman in no-hitter No. 1 (Sandy Alomar Sr.) was the father of the man who made the last out in no-hit miracle No. 7 (Roberto Alomar). Yet another memorable moment from Ryan's latest no-hitter didn't even take place in Arlington, Texas. It happened in Kansas City, where the final out of Ryan's gem was shown on the stadium TV screen during a pitching change. It proved to be so much more captivating than the live game that Tigers catcher Mickey Tettleton went to the mound and told reliever Mike Henneman, "Hold up. I want to watch this." Says it all, doesn't it?

ROAD TRIP OF THE YEAR

All it took was one 55-ton chunk of concrete that decided to emulate the Baltic States

and declare its independence from the rest of Montreal's Olympic Stadium. The next thing anybody knew, the Montreal Expos had turned into baseball's version of the Washington Generals.

Off went the concrete. And out went the Expos, on what seemed like the longest road trip of the 20th century.

Just how long was that road trip? How about: 28 days, 26 games, 14 cities and (here comes the really impressive number) a tidy 6,526 miles.

"Boy," said beleaguered Expos media relations director Richard Griffin, "this would be a hell of a thing for a travel agent, eh. I'd like to book a ticket: Montreal to New York to Philadelphia to Chicago to Montreal to New York to Philadelphia to Montreal to Chicago to St. Louis to Pittsburgh to St. Louis to Pittsburgh to Montreal."

"For 50 people, please."

ROYALS FANS OF THE YEAR

Before last season, the only big league ballgames that ever involved any Royals were all played by that team from Kansas City.

That changed on May 15, when that longtime Sam Horn fan, Queen Elizabeth II, dropped by Baltimore's Memorial Stadium for an Orioles-Athletics game — accompanied by 350 of her closest friends, relatives, presidents, princes, chiefs of staff, reporters and royal sharpshooters. Here's some of the bedlam that ensued:

- Jose Canseco capped a big week by meeting with Madonna and the queen in a span of six days. His humble reaction to the queen's appearance: "She's too old for me. I wonder if she knows Madonna."

- Orioles outfielder Brady Anderson said he planned to ask the queen about Princess Caroline. When told that the queen wasn't related to Princess Caroline, Anderson replied: "Yeah, but they all talk to each other."

- Orioles catcher Bob Melvin gave this report on his trip through the royal receiving line to meet the queen, Prince Philip, President Bush and Barbara Bush: "I dropped a 'Mr. President,' a 'Your Majesty,' a 'Mrs. Bush' and a 'Your Royal Highness' — very coolly, I might add."

- In order to pull off that receiving line, the Orioles had to install bulletproof shields in front of their dugout. Fortunately, said one Orioles executive, they had bulletproof shields in stock. "We've been using them to protect some of our starting pitchers," he said.

BOX-SCORE LINE OF THE YEAR

No doubt whatsoever who wins this honor. On the way to compiling the highest walk ratio (6.79 per nine innings) in AL history among pitchers who worked at least 200 innings, Seattle's always-lively Randy Johnson made an incredible 17 starts in which he walked five hitters or more.

That produced some of the most action-packed pitching lines ever, topped by this outrageous July 17 production against the Brewers:

IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
4	1	4	4	10	4

"If they gave frequent-walker miles for all the walks I've given up this year," Johnson said, "I'd have enough for a trip to the moon."

Well, not quite. But the guys he walked did travel an outrageous 2.6 miles to first base.

ROB DEER FEATS OF THE YEAR

It's possible that nobody in history ever had a season quite like Detroit's inimitable Rob Deer. Check out this list of super-human feats:

- He led his league in strikeouts for the seventh time in the past 11 years.

- He had over 100 more strikeouts (175) than RBIs (64), making him the first player in history to do that twice. (Only three other guys did it once.)

- He had 95 more strikeouts than hits, making him the More Strikeouts than Hits Club's all-time leader.

- He would have been a cinch to become the first man in history to whiff 200 times if that uncooperative Sparky Anderson hadn't stopped playing him down the stretch.

- He barely missed breaking the record for worst strikeout ratio in history. He fanned once every 2.56 at-bats. The all-time record is 2.55 — held by (yep) Rob Deer.

- He just missed becoming the first player to have more strikeouts than points on his batting average. His average was .179. He can thank Anderson for avoiding that honor, too.

- He went to the plate 264 times without hitting a fair ball (175 strikeouts, 89 walks). Which was very impressive, but wasn't even a record for himself. (He had 272 contact-free at-bats in 1987.)

- He had more extra-base hits (41) than singles (39) — a personal first in his major league career.

- He set a record for most RBIs by a guy whose average wound up below the Mendoza Line.



Strikeout King Rob Deer never met a pitch he couldn't swing through.

- He set another record by having the lowest batting average of any player in history who hit 20 home runs in a season.

- And finally, he set one of the greatest records of our times: worst batting average in history by a player who got 400 or more at-bats. The old record was .185, held by Ed Brinkman, Ed Joost, Ed Zimmerman and the legendary John Gochnaur.



HAIR-BRAINED IDEA OF THE YEAR

For sheer absurdity — um, make that *shear* absurdity — there was no better story all year than the great Aug. 15 “lock-out” in which Yankees manager Stump “Scissorhands” Merrill benched his mane man, Don Mattingly, for refusing to get a haircut.

That inspired the always-restrained *New York Post* to crank out a back page that belongs in the Newspaper Hall of Fame. On it was a big, slightly touched-up photo of Mattingly as a skinhead. Alongside him were pictures of two *Post* columnists, Steve Serby and Mark Kriegel, likewise de-haired. And the caricature classic hairline — oops, headline:

“Play Bald!”

STRANGE BUT TRUE FEATS OF THE YEAR

- The Reds turned a double play against the Dodgers in which the first out was Jose Offerman missing home with the winning run and the second out was Lenny Harris passing Brett Butler on the basepath.

- The Pirates won a game against the Cubs in which they trailed by five runs in both the eighth and 11th innings.

- Joe Altobelli was the Cubs’ interim manager for one game — and got ejected from it.

- Braves shortstop Jeff Blauser drove in 12 runs in one series. Giants shortstop Jose Uribe drove in 12 all season.

- With Vince Coleman of the Mets on first, Astros pitcher Jim Deshaies made 14 moves to first base in one inning on June 7.

- Expos centerfielder Marquis Grissom recorded a putout on his own assist on June 13 by running in and covering second after the throw.

- After having hit no home runs in his first three years in the big leagues, Pittsburgh’s Gary Varsho hit his first two in one game on July 2.

- Astros pitcher Darryl Kile (0 for 38) became the 18th pitcher in history to go 0 for a season (minimum 30 at-bats).

MORE STRANGE BUT TRUE FEATS OF THE YEAR

- Those goofy Tigers won a game May 5 against the Rangers in which their pitchers had no strikeouts and gave up 16 hits.

- The Indians had a streak of 31 innings in June in which they scored one run — on a hit batter with the bases loaded — and got one other runner to third — on a wild pitch.

- Sam Horn and Paul Molitor each fanned in six straight at-bats. But Horn packed all six of his into the same game.

- That mighty A’s lineup sent 46 straight hitters to the plate without a hit (July 12-14).

- The Red Sox turned a bases-loaded double play against the Twins without a ball being hit (on a wild pitch and two rundowns).

- The A’s hit six homers in an Aug. 3 game against the Twins — and lost.

- The Tigers struck out 21 times in one game at Toronto on Aug. 8 — and won.

- The Orioles used 13 pitchers in an Aug. 13 doubleheader with the Rangers — and swept.

- And Jack Clark limped through a home run trot that lasted 56 seconds.

TRANSCONTINENTAL HOME RUN OF THE YEAR

Nobody came closer to launching his own personal space shuttle last season than Cecil Fielder. On Sept. 14, he blasted off a little white capsule that became the first baseball to clear the left-field bleachers in Milwaukee’s County Stadium since the Brewers moved to Milwaukee. The Brewers had a surveyor walk it off, and the distance was an amazing 502 feet.

Fielder dismissed it as just one good swing. But the pitcher who gave it up, Dan Plesac, was more impressed. The following day his mother called him and said she’d heard he’d given up some kind of big home run to Fielder.

“I told her, ‘Yeah, it barely went out,’” Plesac said. “I didn’t tell her it barely went out of the stadium.”

PITCHING MATCHUP OF THE YEAR

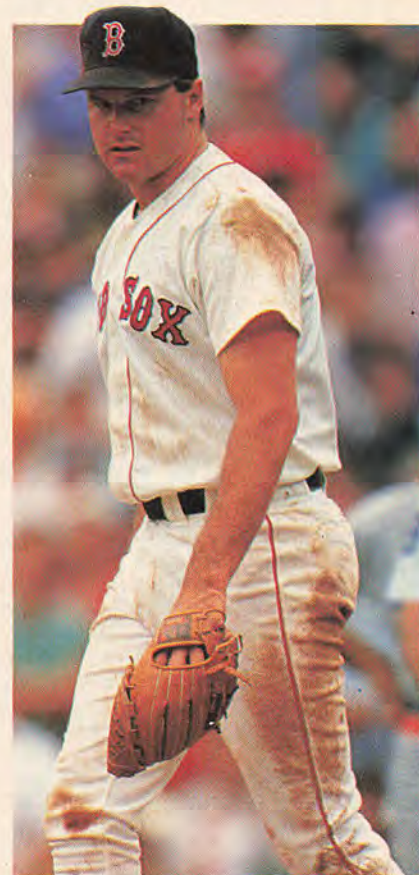
The starting pitchers in the Sept. 11 A’s-White Sox game don’t have a strong recollection of Neil Armstrong’s moon walk. They’re a little fuzzy on the Miracle Mets and Bob Gibson’s 1.12 ERA, too.

But at least Todd Van Poppel and Wilson Alvarez have a good excuse for not recalling stuff that happened in the prehistoric ‘60s:

They weren’t born yet.

Yes, they’re children of the ‘70s. And on Sept. 11, they hooked up in a historic baseball event — the first matchup of starting pitchers born in the ‘70s. Van Poppel’s A’s beat Alvarez’s White Sox, 6-5. Neither got a decision. What really made everyone feel old was that the big blow off Van Poppel was a home run by that old codger, Carlton Fisk, a guy who had hit two big league homers before Van Poppel entered the world.

“You know, I really needed to be reminded of that,” the 43-year-old Fisk said afterward. “Somebody told me I was older than the two of them combined. I’m just an old man. If I had it to do over again, I’d have been born about 15 years later.”



Roger Clemens’ bean ball triggered the brawl of the summer. Mo Vaughn, on going after Cecil Fielder: “It was like tackling a bison.”

FIGHT OF THE YEAR

When Roger Clemens drilled John Shelby on July 6, it set off a brawl between the Tigers and Red Sox that might have produced baseball’s best Summer Slam imitation of the year. Post-bout observations from some of the warriors:

- Boston’s Mo Vaughn, describing the sandwich he and Carlos Quintana wrapped Cecil Fielder in: “We needed two guys with him. It was like tackling a bison.”

- Red Sox pitcher Joe Hesketh, 6-2, 170 pounds, on why he didn’t tangle with anybody: “The rule in these things is that you square off by weight class — and I couldn’t find anyone.”

- Red Sox catcher (and former high school linebacker) John Marzano, after many people had admired his tackle of Shelby before Shelby got to Clemens: “Thanks. I might be playing for the Eagles next year — or the Patriots.”

● Marzano again, after someone mentioned that he might have saved Clemens' life: "Yeah. I guess me and (Jeff) Reardon are tied for saves now."

FORCE OUT OF THE YEAR

If Tony Gwynn had gotten one more hit last season, his teammate Dann Bilardello might have had to enroll in one of those FBI protection programs and been given a new name, address and (probably) continent.

On Aug. 2, Bilardello forgot there were two outs in the ninth inning — and was forced out at third base on what appeared to be a vintage Gwynn single to left field. As it turned out, that little gaffe didn't cost Gwynn the batting title. (He was two hits shy.)

But it did cause Bilardello to take major grief from everyone on earth. Including his brother-in-law, Wayne Frabel, who had a list published in the *San Diego Union* of Top 10 Reasons Why Dann Bilardello Didn't Go to Third. The highlights from that list:

● Wanted to make friends with Braves in case he plays for them next year.

● Too tired to think after leaving Madonna's apartment at 3 a.m.

● Traveled so much lately, he just wanted to stay in one place for a while.

● And the No. 1 reason: Bet Pete Rose he'd make the last out of an inning.

So did Bilardello break his brother-in-law in half after he read that letter?

"Nah, he's about 6-6, 240," Bilardello said. "So I couldn't say too much."

INTENTIONAL WALK OF THE YEAR

Ever heard of a batter being intentionally walked with nobody on base? Well, then-Expos manager Buck Rodgers did it to San Diego's dangerous Fred McGriff with a 4-3 lead and two outs in the ninth inning May 10. Naturally, McGriff came around to score the tying run. But the Expos won, anyway, in the 10th.

This happened during a streak in which Rodgers issued nine intentional walks in six games. But, noted Expos public relations man Richard Griffin, "All Buck Rodgers' intentionals are honorable."

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

And now, the winner of our How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away Award — Warren Newson.

On June 21, the White Sox announced that Newson was being sent to their Triple-A team at Vancouver.

On June 22, after an injury to Joey Cora, they changed their minds. Later that afternoon, Newson walked back into the clubhouse, following the longest trip he never took.

"Gee," coach Joe Niese told him, "you really must have done great down there."

NOMAD OF THE YEAR

It was quite a year for Mitch Webster — and his moving company.

He played on three teams (Indians, Pirates, Dodgers) in three different divisions *before* the All-Star break. He was traded for a man with no wins (pitcher Mike York), then traded a second time for a man with no hits (Jose Gonzalez).

"After a while," Webster said, "you start wondering what's wrong with you."

UPSET OF THE YEAR

All season long, people were giving the Cardinals a hard time because they were involved in a life-and-death struggle to hit more home runs as a team than Roger Maris hit by himself in 1961. (By the way, they did eek out Maris, 68-61, with a late charge.)

But if the Cardinals were looking for proof that home runs are overrated, they could point to their July 30 game. Those slugging Redbirds went deep three times — in the Astrodome — and still lost, 7-5.

"Maybe I'll go back to the hotel and watch 'Silence of the Lambs' just to relax," said manager Joe Torre.

BASE-RUNNING FEAT OF THE YEAR

You have to be pretty darned slow not to score from third base on a single. But Mariners catcher Matt Sinatro pulled off that impressive feat by not scoring the winning run in the 14th inning of the longest, strangest, ESPN Sunday night game of the season, on May 5.

"I think we'd put up a graphic right before that," said ESPN play-by-play man Jon Miller, "that showed the Mariners were 1 for their last 30 with men in scoring position since the previous Tuesday. But after a guy doesn't score from third, we said, 'What the hell is scoring position, anyway? We might have to redefine the term.'"



Scary Fred McGriff drew an intentional walk from the Expos, who had the lead, two outs in the ninth — and the bases empty.

QUOTES OF THE YEAR

First, the annual presentation of the best malapropisms from baseball's No. 1 malaprop factory, Mets broadcaster Ralph Kiner:

● First prize: Ralph, the voice of experience, watched one umpire overrule another and announced: "That never happens — unless it's a vagrant violation."

● Second prize: Ralph the smooth segue-way man went to a pregame commercial with this appropriate sendoff: "We'll be back with Mets baseball right after this season is over."

● Third prize: Ralph the psychoanalyst assessed the laid-back personality of manager Bud Harrelson by observing: "Some quiet guys are inwardly outgoing."

Elsewhere on the quote front:

● Reds pitcher Jose Rijo, on his team's sad state of affairs: "We have reached the height of embarrassment."

● Cleveland's Greg Swindell, on a July 1 upper-deck rocket he yielded to Jesse Barfield in Yankee Stadium: "I watched it until it hit 35,000 feet. Then I stopped."

● Former Twins publicity director Tom Mee, on the club starting a 15-game winning streak the day after he retired: "If they'd known that, they'd have forced me out years ago."

● Jose Canseco, asked if he wanted to go home to play for the Miami expansion team: "Are you kidding? You hear the way they boo me here? They'd be throwing hand grenades at me there."

● Reds pitcher Rob Dibble, talking about his meeting with NL president Bill White to appeal three different cases (two suspensions and a fine): "It was like being in a Perry Mason trial."

● Dodgers third baseman Lenny Harris, on being knocked out in a collision with left-fielder Kal Daniels: "The last time I felt like this, I was wearing a football uniform."

● Then-White Sox manager Jeff Torborg, after watching 7-foot Bulls center Will Perdue work out with his team: "He'll be our long man."

● Then-Expos reliever Tim Burke, on hitting two batters in one inning after watching the NHL playoffs on TV during a rain delay: "I was too excited after watching the hockey game. I had to hit someone."

● Jose Rijo, after getting two hits in a game: "I'm going to ask to change my pitching incentives to hitting incentives. They'll be easier to reach."

● Ken Griffey Jr., after watching his father, Ken Sr., chug 150 feet from left field into foul territory to run down a foul pop-up: "I see where I got my wheels from — my mother."

● Longtime ground-game proponent turned Tigers president Bo Schembechler, after rightfielder Rob Deer dropped a fly ball with two outs in the ninth to help lose a game in Chicago: "Bad things *do* happen when the ball is in the air."

● American League newcomer Tim Lincecum, on nibbling pitchers causing many AL games to last a century: "The count might be 0-and-2. And five years later, it'll be 3-and-2."

● Bob Schaefer, the coach who managed the Royals for one day between the John Wathan and Hal McRae regimes: "I think I have a multi-hour contract."

● Phillies first baseman John Kruk, on how he fared in an old-style uniform on Turn Back the Clock Day: "They told me I looked like Babe Ruth. Then I went out and hit like Dr. Ruth."

● Not-exactly-svelte Stump Merrill, then the Yankees manager, when asked after Kevin Maas suffered whiplash in a car accident whether he'd ever had whiplash: "If you don't have a neck, how can you get whiplash?"

● Cardinals closer Lee Smith, after having to face Kevin Mitchell, Will Clark and Willie McGee — with the bases loaded — to nail down his 37th save: "Whatever happened to Johnnie LeMaster?"

● Comedian and Pirates fan Hugh Fink, on a pitcher the Pirates called up from the minors in August to start against the Cardinals and Phillies: "Hector Fajardo — that's Spanish for 'Bob Walk is still hurt.'"

PEERLESS PREDICTIONS

PIRATES TAKE ALL

Pennant Winners

AL West — Chicago
AL East — Toronto
NL West — Cincinnati
NL East — Pittsburgh

AL Champion

Toronto

NL Champion

Pittsburgh

World Series Champion

Pittsburgh

Teams on the Rise

AL — Baltimore
NL — Cincinnati

Teams on the Slide

AL — Minnesota
NL — St. Louis

AL Manager of the Year

Cito Gaston, Toronto

NL Manager of the Year

Lou Piniella, Cincinnati

First Manager Fired

AL — Bobby Valentine, Texas
NL — Greg Riddoch,
San Diego

AL MVP

Frank Thomas, Chicago

NL MVP

Barry Larkin, Cincinnati

**Twins fall from grace,
Reds rebound, a sad
Valentine's day lies
ahead, but Bo is back.**

AL Cy Young Award Winner

Roger Clemens, Boston

NL Cy Young Award Winner

Steve Avery, Atlanta

AL Rookie of the Year

Kenny Lofton, Cleveland

NL Rookie of the Year

Todd Hundley, New York

AL RBI Leader

Ruben Sierra, Texas

NL RBI Leader

Dave Justice, Atlanta

AL Wins Leader

Jack McDowell, Chicago

NL Wins Leader

Steve Avery, Atlanta

AL Rookie Pitcher of the Year

Roger Salkeld, Seattle

NL Rookie Pitcher of the Year

Lance Dickson, Chicago

AL Batting Leader

Ken Griffey Jr., Seattle

NL Batting Leader

Hal Morris, Cincinnati

AL Home Run Leader

Jose Canseco, Oakland

NL Home Run Leader

Matt Williams, San Francisco

AL Strikeout Leader

Roger Clemens, Boston

NL Strikeout Leader

Andy Benes, San Diego

AL ERA Leader

Jim Abbott, California

NL ERA Leader

Jose Rijo, Cincinnati

AL Saves Leader

Bryan Harvey, California

NL Saves Leader

Rob Dibble, Cincinnati

AL Comeback Player

Bo Jackson, Chicago

NL Comeback Player

Eric Davis, Los Angeles

AL Comeback Pitcher

Pascual Perez, New York

NL Comeback Pitcher

Randy Myers, San Diego

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Travis Fryman, Detroit

NL's Next Superstar

Jeff Bagwell, Houston

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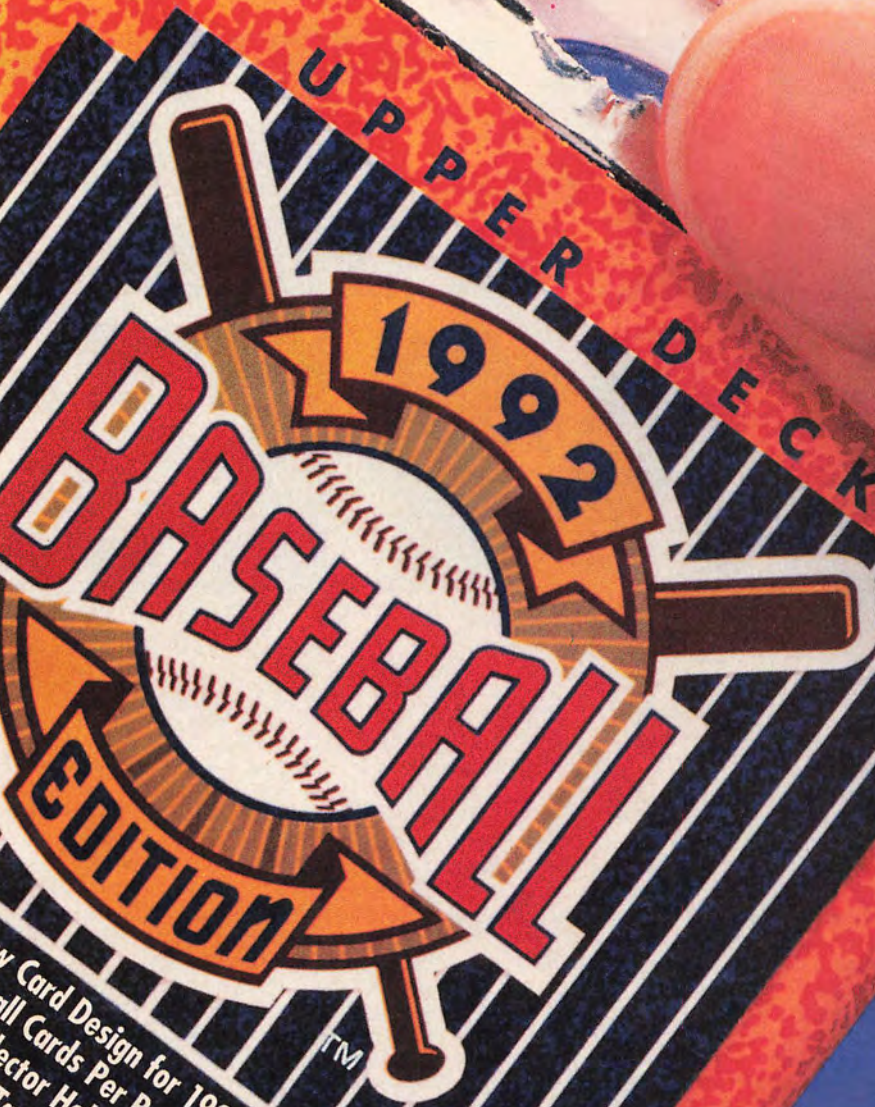


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The difference between succeeding or failing? It's all in a player's head.

By Jack Etkin

has intrigued Karl Kuehl, the Oakland Athletics player development director. Because of his curiosity, more than lip service now is being paid to the game's cerebral side. When Kuehl was a coach with the Minnesota Twins in the late '70s he began asking players "who had been any good over a period of time" about their preparation and thought process. The research culminated in a 1989 book co-authored by Harvey Dorfman, the Athletics performance enhancement instructor since 1984.

The Mental Game of Baseball is in its fourth printing. With chapter headings such as "Establishing Proper Goals," "Responsibil-

the payoff might be a line drive snuffed out in someone's glove. Failure, always lurking in the game, sometimes makes an out-of-nowhere arrival, and coping with it can be trying.

"I think that's a big part of growing up in a professional sport," says Boston Red Sox lead-off hitter Wade Boggs, who in 1991 batted .332, second best in the American League, and whose .345 lifetime average is the best among active players. "You see the young guys. They can't accept it. They throw their helmets, throw their bats and just get frustrated. Frustration causes cloudiness, and cloudiness blocks your concentration so you're not going to be able to perform as well."

MENTAL GAME

Yogi Berra, seemingly tangled in another logical thicket, once summarized the national pastime in two sentences: "Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical." New York Mets infielder Bill Pecota, hearing of Berra's mathematical non sequitur, offered a slight correction: "It's all mental."

Pecota wasn't dismissing the notion of the Hall of Fame catcher noted for his one-liners. He was refining Berra's observation. The summer game, after all, spans six months. In the constant flow of pitches and at-bats, plenty of good things can happen, along with a lot of bad. While physical tools such as speed, arm strength and power do matter, Berra uniquely concluded they aren't the variables that determine success.

"I don't know if I can justify Yogi's quote," says Milwaukee Brewers designated hitter Paul Molitor, who led the majors last season in hits (216) and runs scored (133), and ranked fifth in batting average (.325). "I don't know if I understand it. All these people in the major leagues have ability, some more than others, but it's not a tremendous gap. And, therefore, the mental aspect becomes very important, particularly over a long season."

Just how important is a subject that long

ity, "Attitudes," "Confidence," "Preparation" and "Mental Discipline," it is apparent this is not a treatise on hitting to all fields or using the slide step to keep baserunners close. Kuehl spoke with the likes of Ted Williams, Billy Williams, Gaylord Perry, Willie Stargell, Joe Morgan and a host of other high-level performers. Kuehl then sought out mediocre and streaky players and found another mind-set.

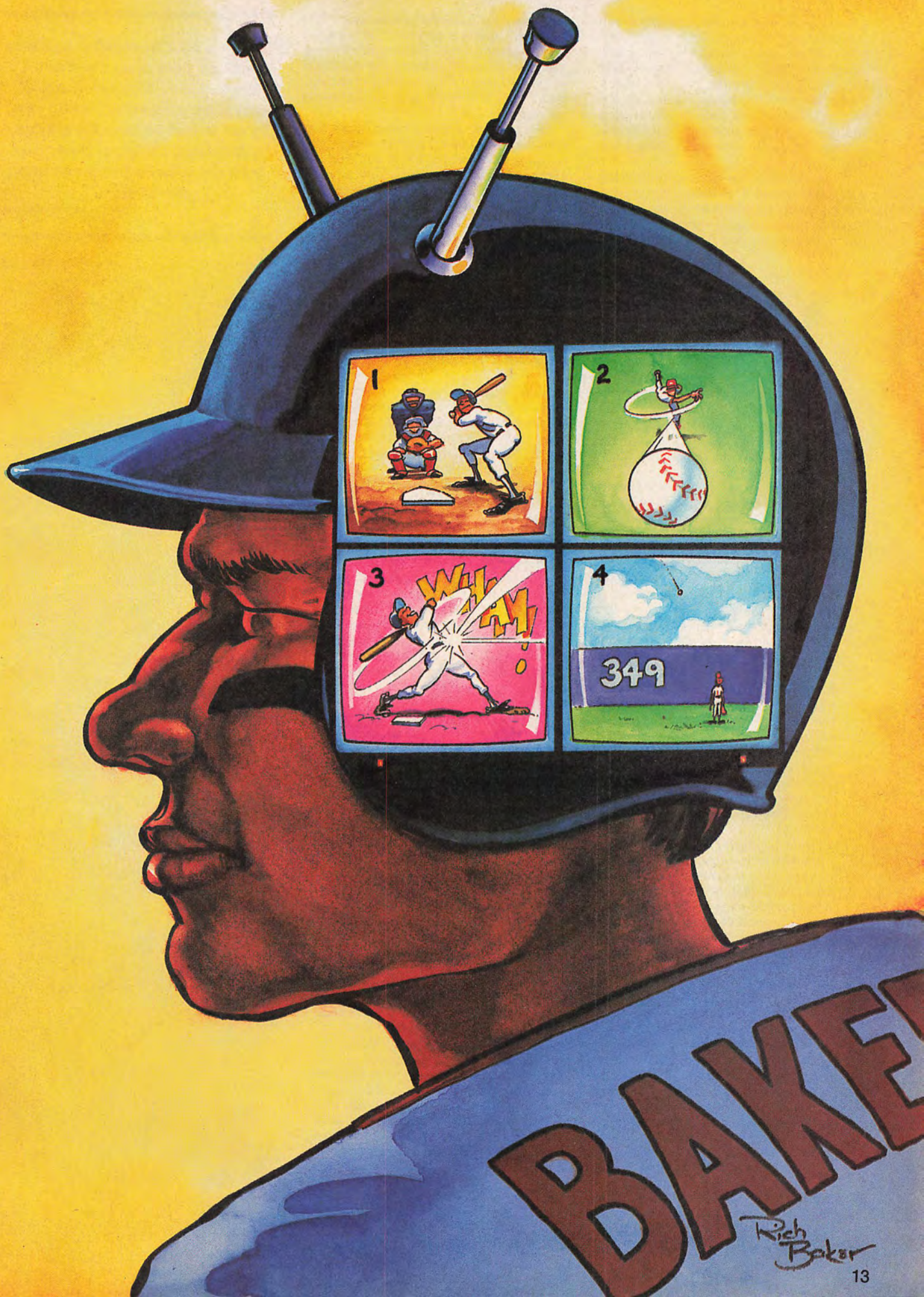
"There was a world of difference between the way they perceived their failures and even their successes as opposed to the successful guys," he says. "A lot of their failures, they did not take responsibility for or they'd start over-analyzing: 'What did I do wrong?' They didn't trust themselves, really. A lot of times they would dwell on the mistake instead of on, 'Alright, what do I have to do to hit that ball.'"

Alas, making successful contact isn't a yes-or-no issue. Players often falter and still are rewarded in baseball's sometimes-perverse, sometimes-unpredictable system of justice. Say a batter gets fooled on a pitch and makes things worse by taking a bad swing. While he has no business doing anything but taking a seat in the dugout, he finds himself pardoned, his slow roller or weak fly having become a hit. Do everything fundamentally correct and

Occasionally a player sustains such high-level concentration that his October bottom line seems statistically supernatural. Dennis Eckersley converted 48 of 50 save opportunities in 1990. His 0.61 ERA looked like a typographical error. In 73 1/3 innings he issued four walks, and one was intentional. "I was unconsciously perfect," the A's stopper says. "I pitched very well, and I was so lucky that it's impossible ever to do that again."

Eckersley was mortal last season, though finished with numbers most closers would make a pact with the devil to attain. His 43 saves ranked second in the league, behind the 46 posted by the California Angels' Bryan Harvey. But Eckersley blew eight saves, equaling his total of the previous two seasons, and his 2.96 ERA was his highest since 1987, his first year with the A's. He allowed a mere nine walks — three intentional — in 76 innings, but gave up 11 home runs after yielding two in 1990 and a combined 12 from 1988-90. Several homers last season came on the road and ended games — a "walk-off" in Eckersley's succinct description.

At one point, he turned to teammate Dave Stewart for advice on handling the down times. After four straight 20-victory seasons, Stewart was on his way to finishing 11-11 with a 5.18



Rich Baker

ERA. A recovering alcoholic, Eckersley didn't expect a response that would trigger a memory of his own travails. "In a nice way," he says, "I asked Stew, 'Well, how are you handling this bad year?' I didn't say that, but that's what I meant. He seemed to handle it very well. He said, 'All I do is I look back to not too long ago when I got released from Philadelphia, and nothing could be as bad as how I felt then.'"

"That was a good answer, right? I could tell you nothing could be as bad as my going in the tank (alcohol rehabilitation program). But that didn't help. I was up against the wall at one point in my life, and I've had a lot of suc-

cess since then. But looking back doesn't help me when I stink. I guess you've got to respect the people who can still keep that stress down. The secret of how I'm going to handle failure — I haven't found it. It's believing in yourself, but it's tough to believe in yourself when you're not throwing well."

George Brett, a .308 lifetime batter with 2,836 hits, encountered similar misery trying to escape the depths of last season. His .255 average was the lowest in his 18-year career with the Kansas City Royals. Worse, Brett had reached .280 on Aug. 7 and appeared headed toward a final mark of .300 or better for the 12th time. Instead, a 14-for-80 (.175)

"I'm a big believer in that — that you can do a lot of practice. Yes, you need batting practice and, yes, you need to do the extra physical things. But you can do a lot of rehearsing mentally."

—Paul Molitor

VISUALIZATION

Seeing is believing

Paul Molitor has been in this situation before. It's clockwork for him. Focus on the opposing pitcher. Hear the hiss of the approaching pitch. Feel the bat give at its sweet spot, driving the ball into the gap.

Sounds like any number of the 62 extra-base hits Molitor produced last season, only this one could have taken place in his mind. The Milwaukee Brewers designated hitter regularly envisions himself in the batter's box, swinging away at an assortment of pitches and pitchers. Known as visualization, the technique has the attention of numerous ballplayers who have come to know the feeling of *deja vu* that results from executing plays in a manner they previously had imagined.

"When I think about times or at-bats that have been successful, I try to envision even the sounds and smells and feelings that you have," says Molitor, who tries to make visualization a daily routine, whether at the ballpark or in his hotel room. "I'm a big believer in that — that you can do a lot of practice. Yes, you need batting practice and, yes, you need to do the extra physical things. But you can do a lot of rehearsing mentally."

The imagination is a powerful device, capable of programming the body how to react to given circumstances before they arise. Some players use it intuitively. A pitcher might hang a slider that gets hit into the upper deck. A natural reaction for him is to picture where in his delivery he faltered, then instinctively make an adjustment. It's almost a reflex action. Visualization, though, is better employed as a conscious exercise. "That way you gain some control over it," says Ken Ravizza, sportspsych instructor for the California Angels. "It becomes a tool you can use."

Mental, as much as physical, skills require practice. It usually is best to find a private location, free of distractions, although some batters who use imagery prefer to rehearse in the on-deck circle before B.P. It works something like this:

Relax, focusing on the task at hand. For a batter, that might be to fare well against the pitches he's bound to see that day. For a pitcher, it could be to control the opposing lineup, targeting a few of the top hitters.

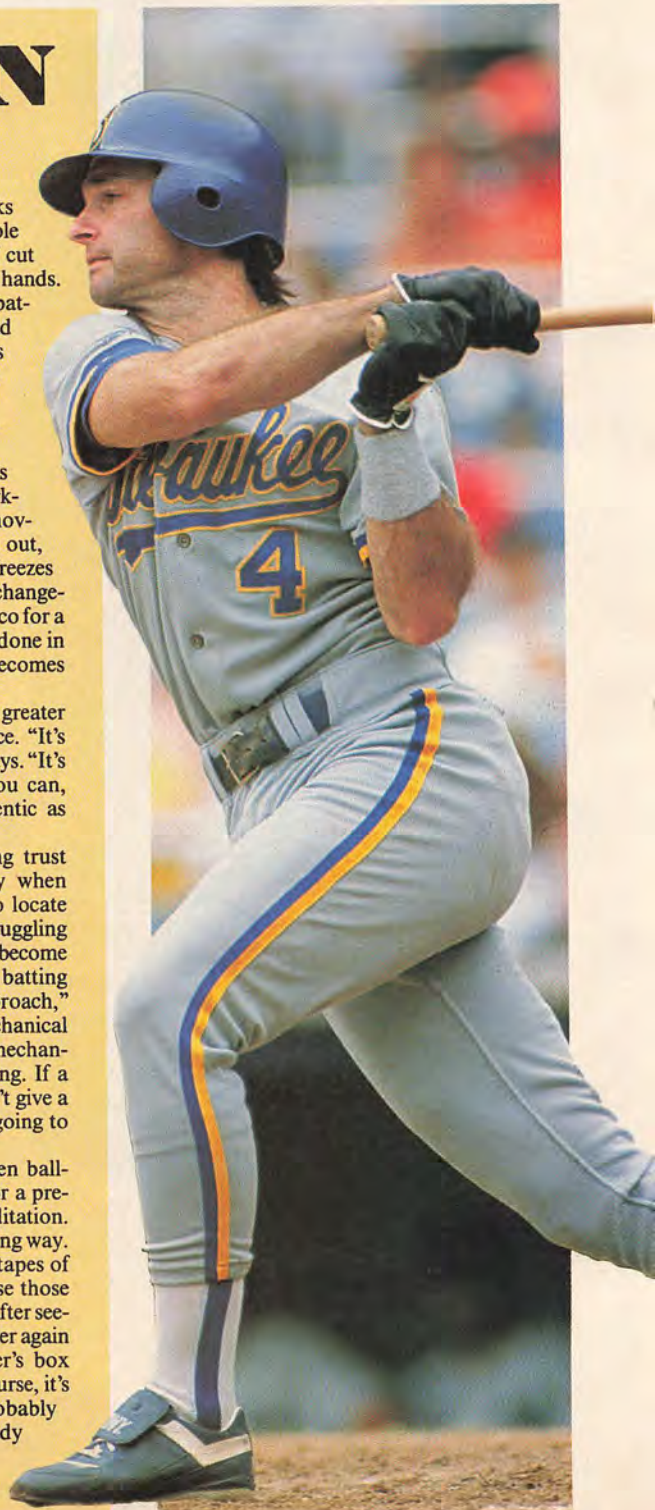
While visualizing, a batter works in as many sensory details as possible — spin on the ball, the aroma of cut grass, the way the bat rests in his hands. Say the Mets are in town, and the batter pictures himself pulling David Cone's inside fastball or taking his curve the other way. Success in his mental at-bats increases the likelihood of him pulling the trigger come game time.

The pitcher faces the Athletics this day. He vividly imagines himself working through the opposing order, moving the ball up and down, in and out, one pitch at a time. Perhaps he freezes Rickey Henderson with a straight change-up, or slips a cutter past Jose Canseco for a called third strike. He gets the job done in his mind and repeating it for real becomes second nature.

The more vivid the details, the greater effect imagery has on performance. "It's not just seeing the ball," Ravizza says. "It's working in as many senses as you can, to make the experience as authentic as possible."

It all boils down to developing trust in your ability, which isn't easy when you're 0-for-ever or can't seem to locate the corners with your out pitch. Struggling players often blame mechanics and become neurotic fixtures in the bullpen or batting cage. "Mechanics is a quick-fix approach," Ravizza says. "It may be a mechanical problem, but we tend to jump on mechanics when it could be a mental thing. If a player isn't thinking clearly, I don't give a damn about mechanics. He isn't going to be successful."

There may never be a day when ballplayers gather in the clubhouse for a pregame dose of transcendental meditation. But the mental game has come a long way. The latest trend is to study video tapes of your quality performances and use those images to enhance visualization. After seeing yourself crush a particular pitcher again and again, you step in the batter's box thinking you're King Kong. Of course, it's never a sure thing. The pitcher probably has his own set of videos and already has set your ass down a thousand times. —Bill Nelson



free fall ensued — three weeks of torment that dropped his average to .258 as August ended.

"My performance was so bad, it just wore me down mentally," Brett says. "You come to the ballpark every day thinking or hoping that tonight's going to be the night that you turn it around. But you're thinking and hoping rather than knowing tonight's going to be the night that you turn it around. You're thinking and hoping and wishing rather than really believing in yourself. I think I brought a lot of negative vibrations, a lot of negative energy to the park with me every day. And it's tough to go out there and be successful when you're always thinking negatively."

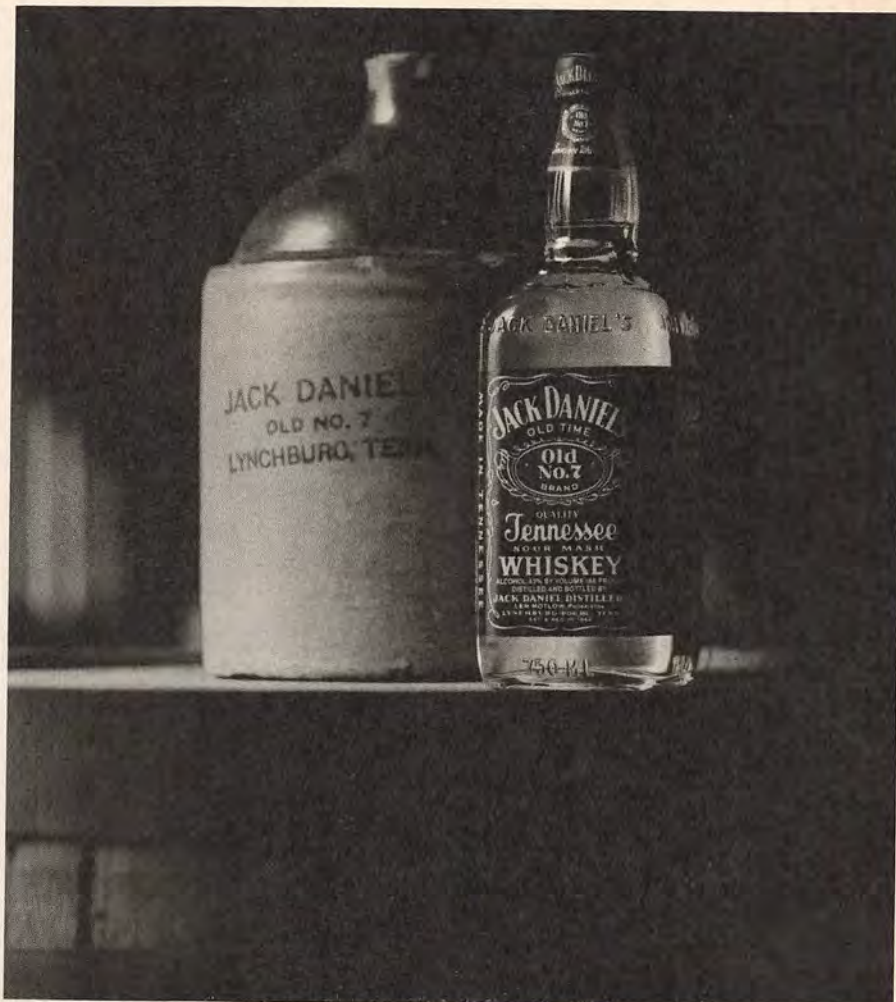
What a difference from 1980, when Brett averaged .390 and was hitting .400 as late as Sept. 19. No matter how noisy the crowd or how large the media crush, there always was refuge at home plate. "I got in that box, and all of a sudden it was deathly silent," Brett says. "Everything was in slow motion. My concentration was so high. What you need to do sometimes is reinforce that because it's not always like that. A lot of times when I'm in the on-deck circle, I stand there and I watch and go, 'This guy can't get me out. There's no way he can get me out.' He's going to get you out, but if you go up there with that approach that he cannot get you out, the chances of succeeding are a lot better than if you're saying, 'Oh man, how am I going to hit that curveball he just threw Kirk Gibson?'"

During their dream seasons, Eckersley and Brett sidestepped bouts with frustration, discouragement and disgust. Typically, cracks in the mental armor are inevitable. Grooves are measured in weeks, not months. Even if circumstances never descend into disorder and malaise, every player must confront an ongoing question: Can I do battle day after day? That's how the late Charlie Lau posed it. Lau, a batting coach for the Orioles, A's, Royals, Yankees and White Sox, believed in leaving the ballpark with something positive every day. Maybe it was nothing more than a bunt, a walk or a sacrifice fly, but it was *something* to build on during hard times.

The converse approach is being in the clutches of an all-or-nothing outlook. During a slump, every outing can have overtones of Armageddon, as Royals shortstop Kurt Stillwell learned all too well. "Before, when I wasn't hitting, I'd go off the edge mentally," he said late last season. "Before, if I didn't have the perfect swing, I'd think, 'I don't have it going.' Instead of trying to get one hit, if I didn't have the perfect swing, I'd go into a game and be totally defeated and be 0 for 4. I was done. Then I had to realize I've gotten hits before when I didn't have the perfect swing. It sounds easy, but it's a big thing for me. I'm not totally changed. I'm still hard on myself. But I'm better."

When things are out of whack, the natural tendency is to plow ahead with an I'll-fix-this determination, a thought pattern that can bring on physical actions which only compound the problems. Gritting teeth is asking for trouble. Excess tension solves nothing. Relaxation works much better, a truth Mike Flanagan, 40, discovered long ago. Last season he made a successful transition to relief pitching with the Baltimore Orioles. His 2-7 record notwithstanding, Flanagan had a 2.38 ERA over 98 1/3 innings, yielding just 84 hits and holding opponents to a .236 average.

"I try to explain to the young guys, instead of trying harder, sometimes you have to try



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easier," Flanagan says. "It's a simple thing that I try to fall back on. You can't force things to happen; you have to let them happen. I try to always get them not to push off the rubber so much and to be smooth and everything'll come back. It works. It's always worked for me."

In a game in which failing seven of 10 times constitutes success, demons always are hovering. No one is immune to dark thoughts about possible downturns, especially when players' performances are quantified and lit up on a scoreboard with numbers big enough to appear on Sesame Street. "Fear and doubt and insecurity are present in everyone out here," says Royals manager Hal McRae. "The good ones don't experience as much. The good ones don't sink as deep. But there's overhead pressure or compression. The weak player, with the compression, he goes down to his knees. The good one, he may get his ankles buried."

For proof, look no further than Eckersley, who has notched 169 saves the past four seasons. He enjoys the spotlight his late-inning role attracts, thrives on the attention, and

"You can't let on that you're not throwing well. There's a body language; I really believe it. You still got to act like you're the man."

—Dennis Eckersley



realizes he is a mound presence — a gunslinger, really, with his sweeping motion and long straight hair blowing out from the back of his cap. Says Eckersley: "I'm aggressive, but I live on fear."

Fear of failure, specifically. "I don't feel awesome and unhittable," he says. "Heck no. I think I'm vulnerable, so I'm going to make darn well sure that I'm going to throw what I want to throw where I want to throw, so I won't be so darn vulnerable. I might have been different if I was throwing 95 mph, but I don't. Or I might have been different when I was 22 years old."

Channeling his fear so that it becomes an asset works easier when Eckersley, 37, is throwing well. When he's not, like at times in '91, he resorts to another psychological ploy upon taking the mound. "You fake it," he says. "You do. Next thing you know, it works. You're just waiting for it to happen again. You can't let on that you're not throwing well. There's a body language; I really believe it. You still got to act like you're the man. You can't fake a good fastball; I'm not saying that. You have to give the impression that your stuff is on time."

It's no different with batters. McRae was a master at using body language, projecting to the pitcher that his swing was grooved and he couldn't wait to hack at whatever was coming. "You would stare at the pitcher," says McRae, a .290 lifetime hitter. "He'd throw a ball away, sometimes I would intentionally walk across the

plate. Let him know, 'I'm all over you. I see that. I didn't want it.' If he throws inside, you don't jump back. You kind of just turn to get out of the way, and you stare at him afterward to let him know, 'OK, throw a strike.'"

When the hits weren't coming, there was only a subtle variation in approach. "You're not as pronounced," McRae says. "What you might do is tell yourself, 'I'm going to be aggressive.' You project, 'I'm after you,' when you're not feeling good. But when you're feeling good, you want to project, 'I'm on you. I'm all over you.'"

Posturing at the plate is not the only way to acquire a mental edge. Video rooms have become commonplace, enabling players to view their at-bats and pick out good and bad habits while concentrating on a pitcher's patterns. The practice extends beyond the ballpark. "I've got these tapes of me at home," Brett says. "All it is, is an hour of base hits and home runs and the announcer saying what a good player you are. You hear that enough and you see yourself having success enough, you start believing it."

"The biggest way for me to instill confidence in myself is to watch videos because you can actually see yourself having success. One right after another. You can fast forward, you can rewind it, you can play it again and again and again, and it's amazing what a home run off Goose Gossage in the 1980 playoffs will do to boost your confidence."

Boggs, who came within nine points last year of winning a sixth batting title, wasn't as comfortable with hitting coach Richie Hebner, who was fired after the season, as Walt Hiriak, Hebner's predecessor. Consequently, Boggs started watching tapes of his at-bats for the first time. He has a highlight tape from 1987, when he hit 24 home runs, and another from 1985, when he had 240 hits. Boggs does more than probe his hitting past; he tries to imagine what will unfold in the future.

"I just visualize who's on the mound and more or less have at-bats over and over and over in my head and just sort of make it happen before it happens," Boggs says. "It's sort of like high-tech visualization of upcoming events. It's to the point of OK, here's who's pitching today, and I've probably gone over 50 or 60 times how he might get me out. It just makes it easier once you get to the box, and then all of a sudden it happens. It's almost like experiencing *deja vu* in the box."

When Boggs switched to a smaller (34½ inches to 34), lighter (32 ounces to 31) bat about a week before the All-Star break last season, his average began to rise. Boggs' explanation of why he made the change is surgically precise. "My hands weren't going back," he says. "Consequently, I was getting too far out on my front side. Then I don't get extension. And when I don't get extension, I'm way out in front of off-speed stuff. Consequently, my impact zone shortens. In a nutshell, I'm an easy out."

"I didn't know if I would be more out in front of pitches because of the smaller bat or it would go the other way and make me stay back to where I was quick enough to wait longer. In effect, it worked to the latter. It made everything stay back and a lot quicker. But that's all hitting is, is trial and error. It's

something I tried, and thank God it worked. I could've tried it and been back to square one and still been struggling."

Young players lack the self-awareness to analyze themselves with such exactness. "You say, 'What were you trying to do? What were you thinking?'" Kuehl says. "Kids don't know themselves well enough. They don't have the recall from one minute to the next of what they were thinking of."

Particularly when the going is hard. A struggling young player is groping with major concerns that can sap a lot of mental energy. "No. 1, you don't know if you belong," McRae says. "No. 2, you don't know if you're accepted. And No. 3, you don't know if your teammates and the guys on the other team respect your ability."

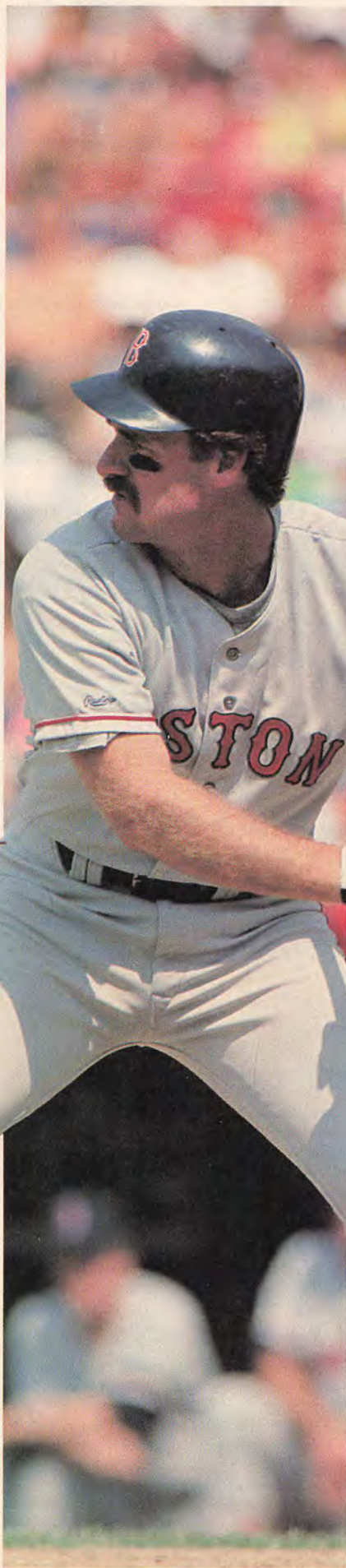
The rough stretches can make trips to the plate timelessly eerie. Royals catcher Brent Mayne, who hit .251 as a rookie last season, became a starter after Mike Macfarlane suffered a knee injury on July 15. One month later, Mayne was hitting a respectable .271.

"I just visualize who's on the mound and more or less have at-bats over and over and over in my head and just sort of make it happen before it happens."

—Wade Boggs

But by Sept. 13, he had tumbled to .237 and endured an 8-for-54 stretch, memorable, if at all, for a rapid-fire succession of pitches that passed into a void. "That month I can remember saying to myself, 'Hey, just go up there and see the ball,'" Mayne says. "Like 10 at-bats would pass by, and I didn't feel like I saw the ball one time. It was just a constant mental battle trying to get back to where I was before, which I guess is not good in itself right there — just trying to get back to what you were before. I guess that's thinking about

the past." Hard as it is, concentrating on what's happening at the moment is the key to surmounting a slump. "Don't worry about what's happened before, and don't worry about the future," Mayne says. "Just stay in the present moment because really that's what throws you off, worrying about what happened your last at-bat or where you're going in your next 20 at-bats."



Down the road, the worst will have passed and normalcy returned. When the struggle, for the time being anyway, has ended, a young player can profit from, and hence savor, the whole miserable experience. "You learn more when you're going bad than when you're going good," Mayne says. "I'll guarantee you that."

"When I go into a slump, I feel, 'This is not that bad.' It's actually pretty good because I picture it almost like a roller coaster. You have to go down before you go back up, and every time you go down, you get up a little bit higher. So whenever I go into some kind of slump, I can rationalize it a little bit by saying, 'Hey, this is a good learning experience. This is something that's going to make me a better player.'"

"And it always does. You always come out of these things a little bit better than you did before. It becomes easier. The downs become a little bit shallower than they were before. Hopefully you just keep moving that way until it all becomes a straight line."

The game's long-term survivors sneer at slumps, even when trapped in them.

Never mind the raft of runners left in scoring position, the skyrocketing ERA, the swings that have become unhinged, the pitches rued before they reach the plate. As pitcher Jack Morris, the most valuable player in the Minnesota Twins' World Series triumph, says: "It's all in your attitude about what you perceive you're able to do. If you think you're going to do bad, you're going to do bad. If you think you're going to do well, you can do well."

Peak performers have unbending resolve. For them, hard times can — no, *will* — fade into history with one swing or one pitch. The next fine time always is near. To feel differently is folly and self-defeating, the wrong mind-set entirely. "You've got to be a little bit greedy, and you've got to be conceited a little bit and arrogant to a point," says Jack Clark, the Red Sox's designated hitter whose bottom line includes 335 home runs and 1,147 RBIs. "It's not to show anybody up. It's to keep yourself on the level you need to be day in and day out here against everybody who's trying to beat you down and to beat you."

"You always got to think you're the best. You can't ever let the other team know that you're struggling. You've always got to feel like you belong here and you're supposed to be here. You've got to have an attitude like, 'I'm a bad dude.'" □

Jack Etkin covers baseball for the *Kansas City Star*.

TONY LA RUSSA

FIRE IN THE PIT

By Art Spander

The abrasive perfectionist we know as Tony La Russa, a man of themes and dreams, is an attorney who barely practiced, a baseball manager who never concedes, an idealist who will not relent. He doesn't suffer fools or indifference, and is just as apt to turn a White House invitation into a vegetarian meal as he is to turn a hit-and-run gamble into a big inning.

La Russa smiles infrequently, contemplates often and calculates inveterately. He lives in a home with his family, seven felines and no cable television. He will offer a stray cat an open palm, but might give a prying journalist the figurative back of his hand.

He is intense, complex, eclectic, compassionate and fascinating, with a belief in himself, an admiration of his peers and an appreciation of a job that some might see as more pleasure than work but La Russa considers more enlightening than wearying.

He is a manager in the literal sense of the word, delegating responsibility and sharing achievement. He is a winner in any sense of the word, leading the Oakland Athletics to three consecutive pennants, although as any proper leader La Russa disparages his contributions and embellishes those of others.

Asked once to describe himself, La Russa answered, "I don't spend time trying to figure myself out." Which means, naturally, that the rest of us do.

We wonder how La Russa can deal with Jose Canseco as well as with aggravations of free agency; why La Russa will march to support the rights of animals but, given his druthers, would place restraints on the right of free speech; why, in a society that so emphasizes the greenback dollar, he is able to get results by emphasizing values that cannot be

In a world of conformity, the A's passionate manager stands out from the crowd.

withdrawn from an automatic teller machine.

Consider the men who manage major league clubs, as diversified a collection of individuals as can be imagined. Tommy Lasorda weaves tales. Sparky Anderson offers insight. Roger Craig is so nice that criticizing him would be like criticizing Santa Claus. La Russa is, well, for someone so difficult to pigeonhole, perhaps the appropriate label is "diligent."

George Will drew on an observation about William Gladstone, former British prime minister, when seeking to characterize La Russa. To wit: "It's not true that he lacks a sense of humor. It's just that he's not often in a mood to be amused."

Not during baseball season, for sure. Not when there's a possibility the A's will lose a game they should have won.

You want to tell La Russa to loosen up, to enjoy. But it would be like telling a fish not to swim. Tony is Tony. He takes his job seriously, if not necessarily himself. "I'm a grinder," he has conceded. The attention to detail is almost palpable. When La Russa is in uniform, to start a game the umpire behind the plate ought to cry out, "Work ball!"

Yet his devotion is hardly stultifying. A conversation with Anthony La Russa Jr. is a journey into philosophy, sociology, psychology, nutrition, education and, invariably, the protection of cats, dogs and other beasts that have neither choice nor voice.

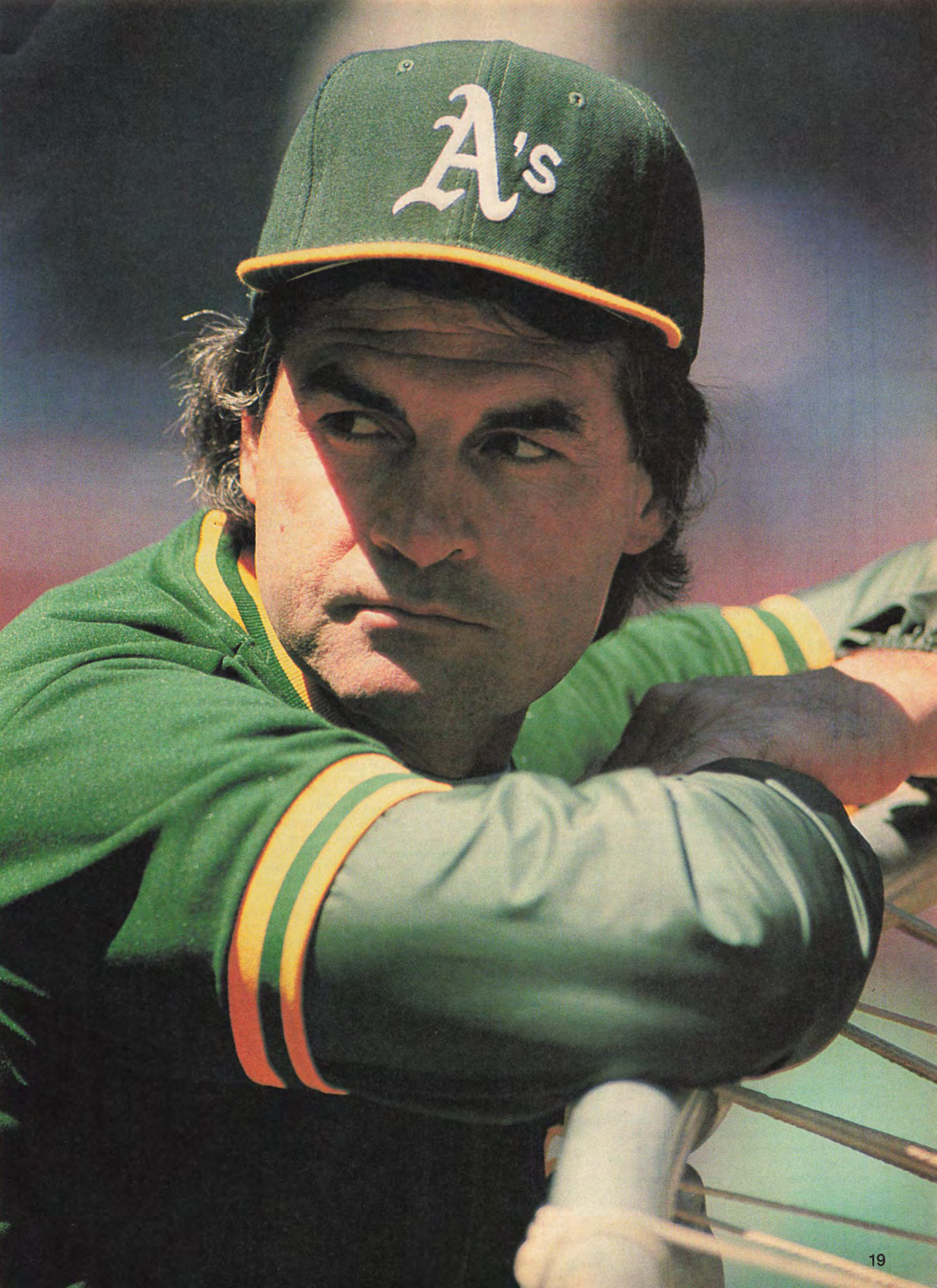
Invited to a White House dinner with President Bush last year, Tony and wife Elaine expressed their gratitude but apologized that both were vegetarians. No problem. The chef prepared them salads.

In a world of conformity, the La Russas, Tony, Elaine and daughters, Bianca Tai, 12, and Devon Kai, 9, usually separate themselves from the crowd, unless they are joining to raise money for abandoned pets or raise a ruckus against the wearing of furs. The girls are schooled at home. The family eats organic food from a garden behind the house in an East Bay suburb and does what it can for Native Americans and four-legged furry things.

"When I was a kid," La Russa says, "I had a love of animals. As an adult I saw some of the issues that were around involving animals and began to donate to certain organizations. Some people would dismiss anyone who opposes killing animals for furs or using animals in experiments as a weirdo. I considered myself pretty normal, so I thought I would become a voice."

The La Russas are fund-raisers, particularly for an organization called Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), which they helped create. To raise money for a new shelter, La Russa used his contacts with such entertainers as Chris Isaak, John Fogerty and Roy Firestone for a benefit program on a Friday evening in January. Some people lend only their names. La Russa spent days giving his time.

Not that this would surprise anyone who has watched him manage a ballclub. La Russa



cares. Damn, does he care. "Managers are supposed to be cold and unemotional," he says. "I'm probably as emotional as any manager in the game today."

And as brilliant. Or should we say, as prepared? In his literate love letter to the national pastime, "Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball," Will, switching from the political arena to the sports stadium, is captivated by La Russa's meticulous style.

"Increased competition has raised standards," writes Will about American industry. "Something similar has happened in baseball. The man who feels the increased pressure most is the manager. . . . The manager must prepare for his several roles, and he must also superintend all the roles of all the players. . . . La Russa motivates by giving everyone work. He uses role players enough to make them feel needed and appreciated — and to make the regulars feel some bracing competition from the bench."

La Russa, 47, became a manager almost by accident. That he is a quality manager, who led the Chicago White Sox to a division title in 1983 and the A's to pennants in 1988, '89 and '90, quite obviously is not an accident. He believes in the old virtues of exertion and dedication. Changing pitchers, suggests La Russa, is not what makes a successful manager. Rather it is the changing of ideas. "A manager's No. 1 job," he says, "is to see his players compete as hard as they can. I work hard because I'm trying to find an edge. The key is that when a team comes to play you, the other dugout should not be comfortable."

The past winter there was discomfort in the Oakland organization. The A's lost infielder Mike Gallego, a free agent who signed with the New York Yankees. He is the sort of overachiever La Russa prizes, the sort of overachiever La Russa hoped to be. They lost their grasp on the American League West last season, as injuries, misfortune and, too often, bad baseball kicked them into oblivion.

"There's a glue that binds a team," La Russa says. "I use the word glue because I'm tired of hearing the word chemistry. It's a team feeling, and when you've got it, it's like having another superstar on the club."

"For three years we had great glue. Last year we started out and had the Rickey (Henderson) problem in spring training. Then we started having all those injuries — nine guys disabled at one time. We were close the first half, and I kept thinking these are just the problems of '91. We'll play through them. But our mesh was shaky. And Minnesota played well. So did Chicago. And we just didn't play as well as they did. It's tough to win once. We won three times. That says a lot about the team we had."

What says a great deal about La Russa is his curriculum vitae. It's been called a route of whistle stops to nowhere. As a graduating high school senior in Tampa, Fla., La Russa received a \$50,000 bonus from Charles O. Finley in 1962 to sign with the A's — the Kansas City A's. A year later he ruined his arm in a pickup softball game back home, but never was one to concede. By the time his 16 years as a player had come to a close, La Russa had been called up to the majors six times and sent down six. He had been in 17 towns in 10 different leagues.

Arriving in the bigs for the first time in 1963, he played in 34 games, had 44 at-bats, 11 hits and a .250 average. La Russa would not know it at the time, but he had appeared in a

quarter of all the big league games of his playing career.

"I was horseshit," La Russa insists. He was a lifetime .199 hitter in the big leagues without a home run. He also was a man with a plan. After 12 of the 16 seasons as player, La Russa, keeping a promise to his mother, went to college. It took him seven years to get a bachelor's degree at the University of South Florida, another five to get a law degree at Florida State.

"I knew I would never be a productive player," La Russa says. "I couldn't earn a living at baseball. So I would become a lawyer. It's just in the middle of law school I ran into Loren Babe. He was my manager in 1975 (at Denver), and I became his player-coach in the White Sox chain. I thought I knew something about managing when I played, but Loren showed me what I didn't know. And it got me real interested. I graduated from law school in March 1978. While I was waiting for the state boards, I thought I would try managing."

He took over the White Sox's Double-A team at Knoxville in the Southern League, and won the first half of the split season. That winter he managed in the Dominican Republic, no problem since La Russa spoke Spanish before he spoke English.

"Managers are supposed to be cold and unemotional. I'm probably as emotional as any manager in the game today."

— Tony La Russa

In February 1979 he took the first two parts of the three-part bar exam, then went to manage Iowa in the American Association. Until Aug. 2, 1979. When, at age 34, with a year and a half of experience, he was elevated to manager of the White Sox.

"In October I came back to Florida and sat for the third part of the bar," La Russa says. "I passed. I joined a firm. I was just hanging around the office when a woman came in and I was assigned the case. The woman, who had been declared incompetent by a court, wanted to manage her affairs again and have her competency legally restored. I did the paperwork, but when it was time to go to court, I was in spring training."

Where he's been every year since, 1980 to 1986 with the White Sox, 1987 on with the Athletics.

"I don't care what your profession is," La Russa says. "Law school is great preparation, because it teaches you a certain discipline of the mind."

Law school didn't hurt Monte Ward, Hughie Jennings, Miller Huggins and Branch Rickey. They were attorneys and major league managers. They're all in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"Not that law school made me very cocky when I started in the majors," La Russa says. "There were so many giants in the American League those days managing — Mauch, Weaver, Martin, Sparky, Herzog — I got humbled real quick. Those guys didn't go to law school. But boy they could manage. I

learned so much. Those guys were masters."

Jokes about managing run from Modesto — of the Class A California League — to Cooperstown. *They recycle managers more than they do bottles and cans. There are three things the average man thinks he can do better than anybody else: build a fire, run a hotel and manage a baseball team. The key to managing is to keep the guys who hate you away from the guys who are undecided.*

La Russa finds nothing to chuckle about. The more he knows about managing, the more he respects managers. "I have tremendous reverence for the position," he says. "I revere it. If a guy does his job well, in a career, in a year, if you do the job a Bobby Cox or Jim Leyland did, a Tom Kelly did — even somebody like Jim Lefebvre, because sometimes surviving is tougher than winning — well, I know how difficult it is. There are so many forces trying to pull your club apart. So when you can pull it together, I have great respect."

"I don't mean to belittle the fans and writers, but until you've been in the pit, as I call it, until you're in the dugout and have a one-run lead in the ninth, and you're three outs away from feeling great or feeling like crap, until you can go back to the clubhouse and tell yourself, 'I've blown it,' or 'I've done it right,' you don't understand the allegiance, the esprit de corps, among managers."

What was easy to understand was the agony La Russa experienced in 1991 as the A's, having been swept by Cincinnati in the 1990 World Series, met nobody's expectations. Dave Stewart and Bob Welch struggled. Rickey Henderson sulked. Mark McGwire slumped. Jose Canseco felt unloved. And the middle relief pitching was terrible.

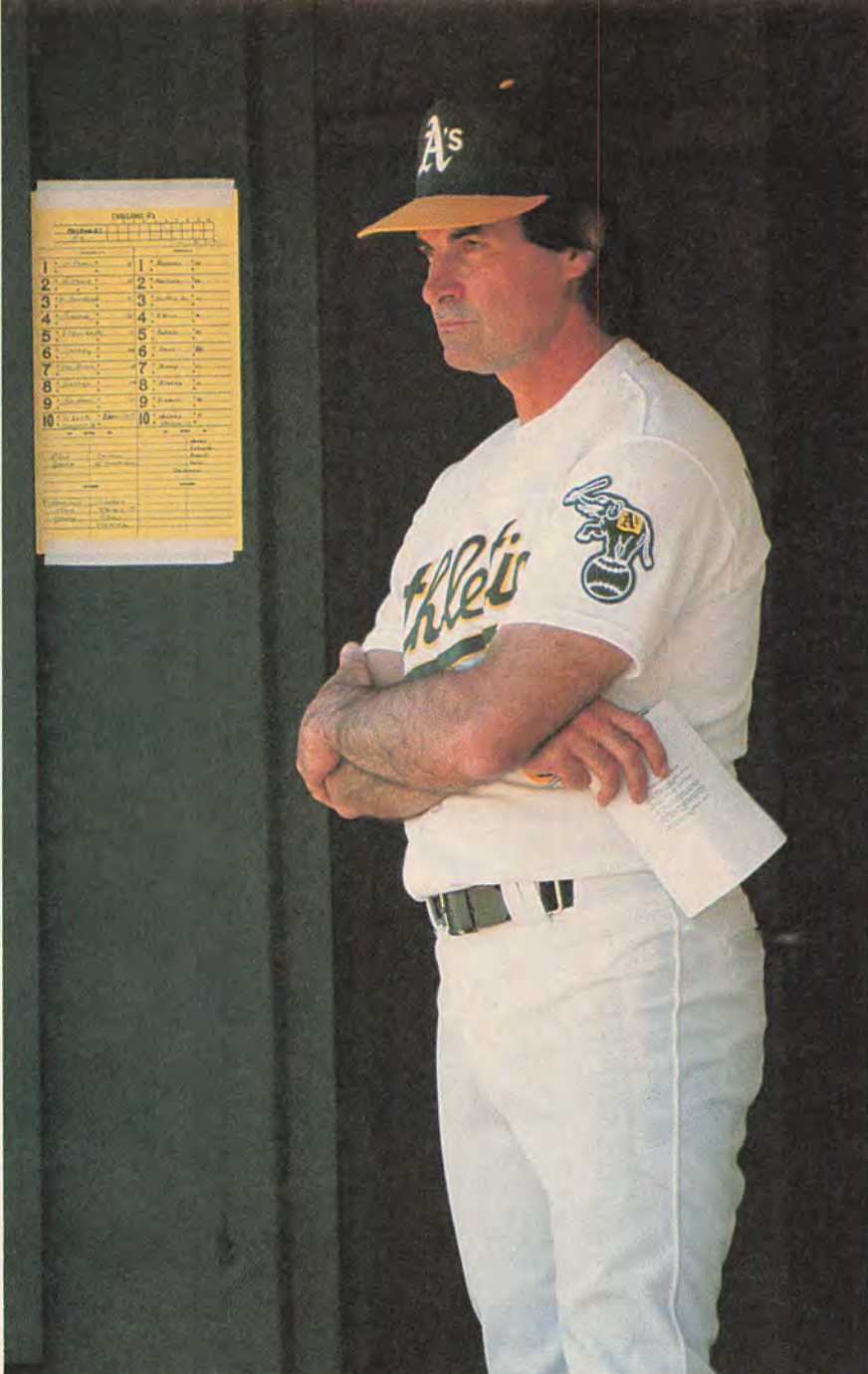
Those things happen in baseball. And all the pitchouts and squeeze plays and trips to the mound don't make a difference. But a manager keeps doing them all the same. Then he trudges back to his office after the final out and confronts journalists who ask the questions he already has asked of himself.

Nothing is the way it used to be. That includes baseball. Nobody reads anymore. Nobody is modest anymore. Nobody is discreet anymore. La Russa had to deal with Stewart's ineffectiveness. Rickey Henderson's selfishness. Canseco's midnight rendezvous with Madonna. "People think it would be a piece of cake to manage this team," McGwire says. "In reality, it's one of the toughest clubs to manage. Tony has to kick us in the rear and tell us what we have to do."

For La Russa, the year the A's slipped to fourth place, 84-78, 11 games behind the division (and World Series) champion Twins, might best be summed up thusly: He told a sportswriter in Chicago what to do, but failed to tell Rickey Henderson.

On June 1, with Oakland in a virtual tie for first with the Texas Rangers, the A's played the White Sox at Comiskey Park. With the game tied, 4-4, in the top of the ninth, reliever Bobby Thigpen hit Terry Steinbach in the left temple with a fastball. La Russa raced to home plate, saw Steinbach motionless, picked up Terry's bat and flung it up the protective netting behind home plate. Players jumped from each dugout and shoved and pushed. When order was restored, Oakland scored three runs to win, 7-4.

Later, when the door to the clubhouse opened, Bob Glass, a 64-year-old correspondent for *The Associated Press*, a man La Russa



Until you've been in the pit, says Tony La Russa, with a one-run lead in the ninth, three outs from feeling great or feeling like crap, you can't understand the esprit de corps among managers.

has known for years, alluded to the beaming and asked: "Was that a scary situation?" Apparently incredulous Glass would need confirmation, La Russa began to stalk away. Glass hollered, "Be a man!" La Russa spun around, bumped chests with the reporter and filled the room with invective.

"Be a man?" La Russa screamed. "A god-damn man is on the f----- ground with his head split. You guys have about as much sense as a kid just born." There were more shouts, more obscenities. Finally, several players and coaches grabbed Glass and forced him from the clubhouse — as a television cameraman captured all. The scene, complete with bleepouts, was shown again and again.

"The incident seems to represent one of the problems with sports in this era," says La Russa, seven months' distant from the chaotic evening. "The first thing is a hitter was lying on the ground, and when I ran out there I thought he might be dead. That wouldn't excuse me from doing something stupid, like

hitting the catcher with the bat or throwing it into the stands. But I throw it into the screen. I'm not proud I did it, but I did it.

"But what's so typical of the '80s and '90s is, afterwards, by a ratio of 19-1, maybe 99-1, the issue is what happened in the clubhouse, not about the condition of Terry Steinbach. It should have been 99-1 the other way. I had known Bob Glass, and he's not a troublemaker, but I was real hot. And I didn't want to start a verbal war with the White Sox. If I was as cold and calculating as everybody says, I wouldn't have done that, would I?"

"That incident was on the ESPN year in review, with the bleeps and all — at least that's what somebody told me. I have to try to explain that to my daughters.

"But one of the troubles now is that baseball writers don't write baseball. I still believe the fans want to read how Walt Weiss makes the double play or Dave Stewart worked a hitter. Instead, the dominant attitude is, 'What's the story? What's the controversy?'

Why worry about why Jose was 10 minutes late to practice?"

La Russa stops for a second, then shrugs.

"It gets aggravating, but if an editor or a TV producer says, 'That's what we want,' I have to reconcile it, because I want to be a part of major league baseball. And if I don't, I can just go home."

Which perhaps is where La Russa should have told Rickey Henderson to go in spring training last year. The 1990 AL Most Valuable Player showed up in Arizona contending that at some \$3 million a year on a guaranteed contract, which still had three years to run, he was underpaid. Henderson wouldn't work out. Then he wouldn't play in exhibition games. In May, he would break Lou Brock's career stolen-base record, but the stigma always was there: Rickey was giving less than his best.

"When we got Rickey back by trade in June 1989, he had never been on a winning team, so he was bound and determined to show he was a team player who could help us win," La Russa says. "But last year I tried to be too cute with his situation. I mean, ever since I've been a baby as a manager, I've been predictable. And players like predictability.

"But Rickey came in with the thing that \$3 million wasn't enough. I tried to honor his statements about being a good player making less than not-as-good players and still keep the team together. At the time I thought I was doing right. In retrospect, I think I hurt Rickey more than anybody because I wasn't as predictable as I had been. If it happens this year, with Rickey, with Joe Blow, I'm going to say, 'Go home.' I don't want anybody messing with the team."

As others have discovered, neither do you mess with La Russa. In 1984, after a Rangers pitcher threw at a White Sox batter, La Russa nearly started throwing punches at Doug Rader, then the Texas manager. La Russa doesn't hold grudges. Rader, fired as Angels manager near the end of 1991, is the A's batting coach for 1992. In 1987, a year after Canseco was selected AL Rookie of the Year, the 6-4, 240-pounder failed to hustle. When he got back to the dugout, the 6-1, 190-pound manager growled, "Do that again, and I'll knock you on your ass."

Not that La Russa is at war with anyone, especially Canseco. "The amount of crap he has to deal with," La Russa says, "I'm not so sure if my head would be on straight, either. Really, I love Jose. When push comes to shove, we get along good."

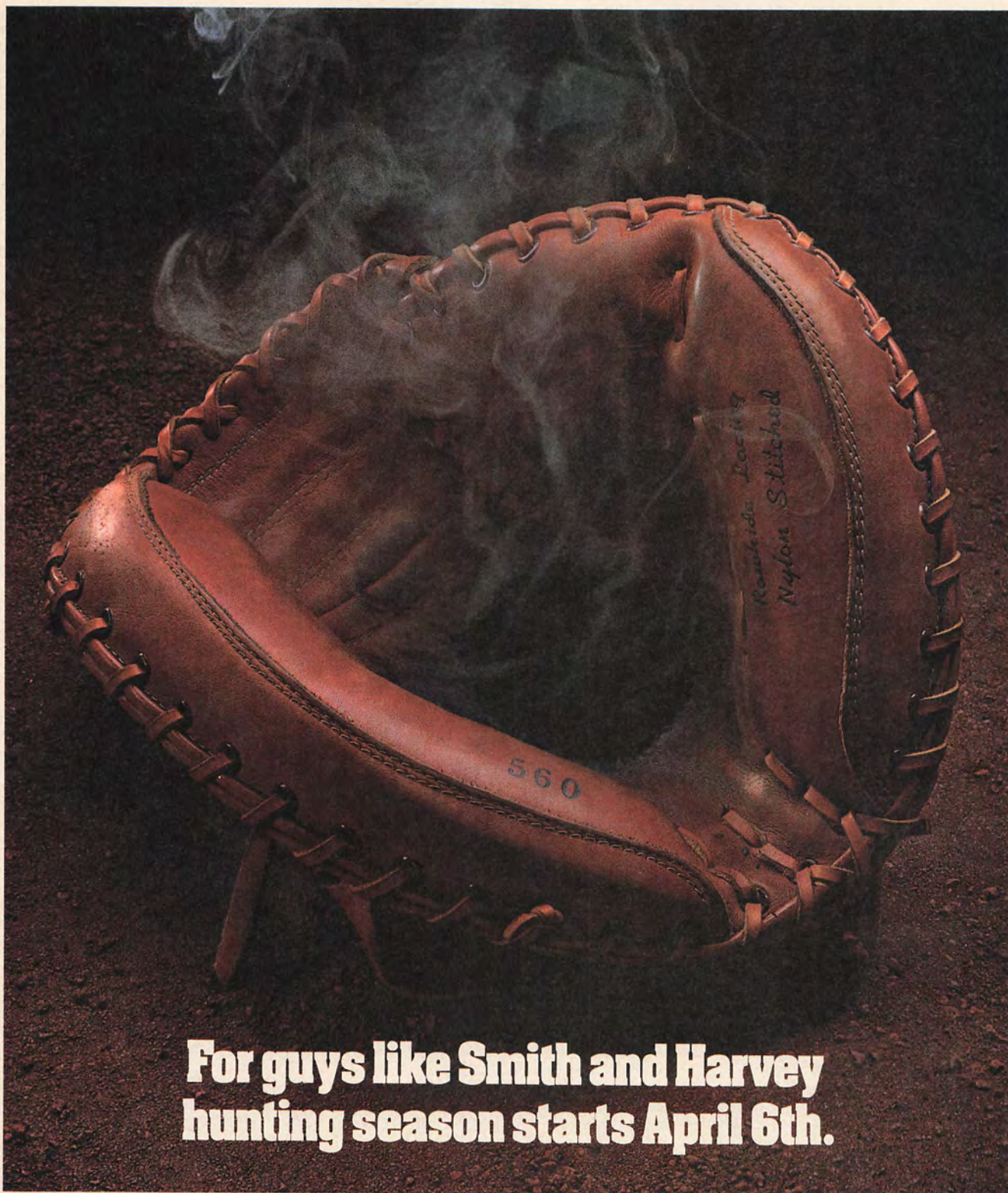
As long as La Russa doesn't have to push and shove Canseco.

"It's different these days," La Russa says. "There's so much talk about the dollar, so much attention from television, that a player has to keep a certain perspective. He has to tell himself, 'I'm just a man blessed with abilities, and I've got to work hard, play hard.' It's not Fantasy Island out there. It's still baseball.

"A manager's job is to stand in front of a team and say, 'Trust in me. Because I can help make you a team that will win.'"

Tony La Russa indeed has helped. He is only the 12th manager since Frank Chance of the 1906-1908 Cubs to have won as many as 306 games in three consecutive seasons. That may not be perfection, but in baseball it's the next best thing. □

Art Spander is a sports columnist for *The San Francisco Examiner*.



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THE MIRACLE OF MACORIS

By Rob Ruck

Alfredo Griffin stands outside his home in San Pedro de Macoris as several hundred young boys swarm the compound's walls chanting "Reyes! (Kings) Reyes! Griffin! Griffin!" It's the morning of Jan. 6 — Three Kings Day — the Latin American holiday of gift-giving and a time when politicians and other notables dispense toys. The youngsters have been waiting since dawn, spilling over from neighbor Joaquin Andujar's annual distribution of sporting goods. The sight of Griffin pulling out of the driveway in his tan BMW sets off a stampede that blocks his exit.

Griffin, the Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop the past four seasons, wants to pass out his gifts in Ingenio Consuelo, 10 miles away, but first must oblige the multitude of outstretched hands. "How can you come over and ask for a gift when Joaquin has already given you a bat, a shirt or a glove, and other children haven't yet got anything?" Griffin asks the boys in Spanish. Relenting, he hands gloves to those who seem to have missed out, then eases his car onto the streets of a town that sends more of its native sons to the major leagues, per capita, than any other.

Passing former big leaguer Rico Carty's house, Griffin stops near the residence of his friend, Chicago Cubs slugger George Bell, to pull out gloves for a trio of shoeshine boys. They run behind the car, holding their prizes aloft, as Griffin drives away. Weaving through traffic — a helter-skelter swirl of motor scooters, pedicabs and an occasional Mercedes-Benz

**In San Pedro, where
ballplayers flourish as
readily as sugar cane,
every boy dreams of being
a major leaguer.**



— he comes upon Tetelo Vargas Stadium, home of the *Estrellas Orientales*, his winter ballclub, and goes north on the two-lane blacktop to Consuelo, the largest of six sugar-mill towns that have made San Pedro the center of the Dominican Republic's sugar industry since the late 19th century.

Griffin overtakes a boy astride a horse-drawn cart loaded with sugar cane cut into 4-foot sections. In the distance Haitian women balance jerrycans of water on their heads as they walk through the expansive cane fields to their *batey*, a cluster of company-owned shacks. Their husbands and sons toil in the fields from sunup until sundown for about 80 cents a ton, cut and stacked. A decent day's work is 3 tons.

Griffin slows to cross the tracks, by the cemetery, where former Pittsburgh Pirates prospect Alberto Lois lost a race with a train as he drove home from the ballpark one night. Lois' career ended on the spot, along with the lives of five of his passengers. In Consuelo, Griffin drives past the stadium, where several young ballplayers are practicing under the watchful eyes of Boston Red Sox scout Rafael Batista, then arrives at the home of his mother, Mary Griffin, and unloads several mitts and running shoes from the trunk.

Mary lives on Carty Street, in the house Griffin bought for her after he was selected American League Rookie of the Year in 1979. Although Rico Carty helped put Consuelo on the sporting firmament's map, it is his mother, Oliva, once the town's midwife, for whom the

street is named. Carty Street runs from the Santa Ana Church to the *ingenio*, a century-old congeries of shops, giant grinding wheels and centrifuges that makes sugar out of cane.

★ ★ ★

"My mother wanted me to be a doctor, but I didn't like that," says Rico Carty, stretched out on the rattan furniture in his San Pedro home. "My mother wouldn't let me go to the ballfield, but I used to steal time to play. I tell my mother I going to school, but I used to go to the river and swim and play ball instead. I would have ended up in the mill but for baseball."

In the 1950s, after Jackie Robinson had broken baseball's color line, Dominicans began to venture north to the major leagues. Cuba was the leader in export ballplayers until Fidel Castro closed the country following the 1959 revolution. The 1961 assassination of Rafael Trujillo, who had ruled the Dominican Republic like a personal fiefdom since 1930, also was a factor in the country emerging as the chief source of Latin talent.

Carty was part of that current. He made his U.S. debut at the 1959 Pan American Games in Chicago, and played so well that nine big league clubs made him offers. He accepted them all. "I just go ahead and sign because all I want to do is play baseball," Carty says. "I get the baseball in my blood and I keep on signing." He signed with all four Dominican winter clubs, too, and only the intervention of the minor league president saved Carty from permanent exile from the game.

One of the next to sign a pro contract was Rico's *compañero*, Pepe Frias, followed by scores of others. Some adopted a have-glove, will-travel approach and joined the Ingenio Consuelo amateur team, which at one point sent five shortstops in a row to the majors. (One day in April 1986, nine Dominicans appeared at short in major league games. Four were from San Pedro, lending further credence to the area in and around the port city being called "The Shortstop Factory.")

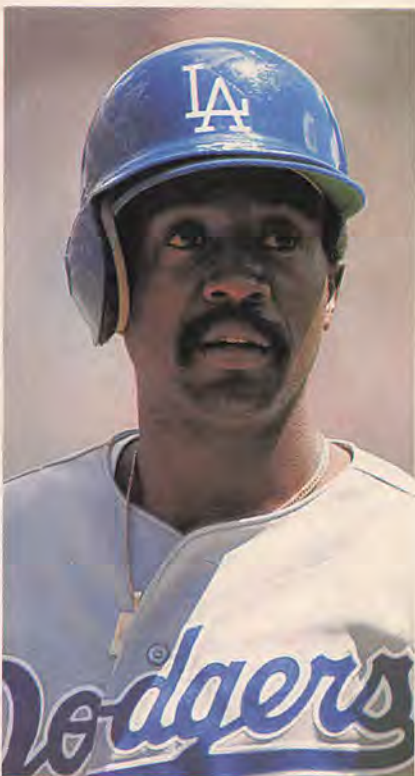
An idol to a generation of San Pedro youth, Carty played 15 major league seasons. In his best year, 1970, he won the National League batting title, finishing at .366 with 25 home runs and 101 RBIs. He was in the majors until 1979, and never missed a winter season. "I feel a real obligation to play here 'cause I owe my country a lot. They pushed me so much here."

★ ★ ★

The "Miracle of Macoris," as San Pedro's pipeline to the major leagues is called, has widened baseball's traditional sources of talent and will shape future rosters as much as any region in the world.

Since Carty broke in with the Milwaukee Braves in 1963, Cesar Cedeno (1970), Andujar (1976), Griffin (1976), Pedro Guerrero (1978), Rafael Ramirez (1980), Bell (1981), Julio Franco (1982), Juan Samuel (1983), Tony Fernandez (1983) and Manny Lee (1985), to name but a few, have followed a similar path. Last season 15 *Macorisanos* played in the majors, and thousands more are in training for baseball careers. The town of 80,000 could form a credible major league club solely with local talent.

While only the best and most fortunate players make it big, almost all return home each winter and after their playing days are over. These elder statesmen make up a talented core of instructors who frequent the ballparks and sandlots, giving the youth a tangible sense that dreams do come true. Everyone



A lfredo Griffin, AL Rookie of the Year in 1979, is a product of San Pedro's "Shortstop Factory."

who leaves the island and returns a major leaguer raises baseball fever another notch. This preoccupation with the sport shows no sign of abating. "Every boy grows up with a bat and a ball," says former New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians infielder Pedro Gonzalez, who manages an Atlanta Braves rookie club in San Pedro. "It's the first present a male baby gets in his crib, and everyone that wants the chance to play gets it."

At Tetelo Vargas Stadium, Gonzalez stands behind first base, hands on his hips, as three players take staggered leads off the bag. It's 10 a.m., and the runners shimmer in the heat rising from the baked infield dirt. A hundred or so onlookers huddle in the shade of the park's canopy. Most are male, many of school age, but the only lessons being learned this morning are on the field, under the scrutiny of Gonzalez, whose club soon will play a Houston Astros squad. These games are daily occurrences in San Pedro, where nearly a dozen major league clubs maintain a constant presence.

Gonzalez, an articulate, thoughtful man, speaks to the forces that have made Macoris a prolific source of baseball talent. "I think we've always been better," he says, like a true *Macorisano*, "but lately, there's never been anything like it." Of the 150-plus Dominicans who have reached the majors, more than a quarter came via San Pedro. Many of the great players, including Hall of Famer Juan Mari-

chal and Gold Glove catcher Tony Pena, came from other Dominican regions, but since the 1970s San Pedro has provided the most bountiful harvests of talent.

"The people from the estates never had anything to do," Gonzalez explains. "You go there when the cropping season is over and you see the old men playing dominos and younger people playing baseball. Once the season is over, what you gonna do, sit on your butt? No! You play ball, that's what you gonna do."

Asked what he would do if not playing ball, a rookie responds: "*Nada. No hay trabajo aqui* (Nothing. There is no work here.)."

There is baseball — almost around the clock. The government and the sugarmills sponsor extensive amateur programs, while major league clubs train and evaluate prospects throughout the year. "This stadium is in use from morning to night almost every day," Gonzalez says. "Everywhere you look you find scouts. They don't miss a boy. And these boys are better prepared than we were." Even the Japanese have gotten into the act. The Hiroshima Carp built a state-of-the-art training camp on the road to Consuelo, intent on developing a few good Dominicans.

"These boys are hungry," Gonzalez says, with a gesture encompassing his players and the growing number of spectators. "There's not a lot of work in San Pedro these days. And what job could pay what they can make in the majors?"

★ ★ ★

William Joseph and Roberto Caines sit under a grapefruit tree in Guachupita, a *barrio* in the shadow of Consuelo's sugarmill stacks. Plumes of rising smoke signal the start of another grinding season.

Three Kings Day passes without fanfare outside the concrete-block homes of Joseph, 78, a blacksmith pensioned after 51 years in the *ingenio*, and Caines, 62, who tends to the mill's recalcitrant water pumps. Years ago they, too, were local heroes handing out gifts to chanting boys — among them Alfredo Griffin, George Bell, Tony Fernandez and Julio Franco.

Settled in wooden chairs, sipping wine, Joseph and Caines reflect upon the making of their community. Theirs is a tale that begins at the turn of the century, in the British West Indies, and is as much about cricket as baseball.

Many of the sporting elders in Consuelo, Joseph and Caines included, are sons of migrants of African descent who came to the Dominican Republic from St. Martin, Tortola and other mostly British islands whose sugar industry was collapsing at a time the Dominican cane fields were expanding. "They were brought to cut cane on the estates," Caines says. "It was a great trial to go to another country. We lived in barracks, four families to a house, with plenty bugs, plenty sickness and vermin. We had mostly English people here in Consuelo, but there were many, too, in San Pedro and the other estates — Santa Fe, Porvenir, Colon and Quisqueya.

"They called us *Cocolos* because many of the first English people here were from Tortola and the Dominicans had trouble saying that. They meant it as an insult, and when a Dominican called an Englishman '*Cocolo*' it caused many a fight."

The racial epithet, however, became a term of pride as the English forged their own cultural definition of *Cocolo* — one that emphasized discipline and self-organization, at work and play. "The only protection we had was to

unify with each other," Caines says. "The first school we had here was the one we make in the yard under a tree to teach our children to read and write. And we make societies to care for people when they're sick, and make the ceremony and carry them to the burial when they die."

"My father came from Antigua to cut cane," Joseph says. "They brought cricket with them from the islands, and I learned the game from him. In this estate we had two cricket clubs, the Ever Jolly and the Energetic, that began a long time ago. We got together with our small amount of money and sent for our gear from India. It took months! We made our own uniforms — all white, of course — and wore

Smoke rising from the sugarmill stacks signals the start of another grinding season. During the *tiempo muerto*, or dead season, there's nothing for youngsters to do but play ball.



white sneakers and a sash with the club's colors. After a while cricket was established in the Republic — wherever there were English to be found, wherever there were *ingenios*."

Without the influence of these English-speaking, cricket-playing sojourners, Dominican baseball never would have become the best in the Caribbean. "The children had sport crafted in them," Caines says. "They were exposed to sport and taught that they must try not to fail or that the color will fail, too, and the race will be beaten. . . . We always tried to maintain pride and heritage. We had a sense of discipline and organization with which we founded our clubs and societies."

The cricketers used to parade before the season's first match. Leading the way was a cornet player, followed by the clubs' queens. Contests took place on holidays and weekends. "But only during the *tiempo muerto*, the dead season," Joseph says. "We didn't play at all during the *zafra*, the grinding season," when the shift was 12 hours a day, six days a week for 50 cents a day.

The six-month dead season, when the cane requires little attention and most workers are unemployed, contributed to an intense sporting environment — first for cricket, ultimately for baseball.

"Cricket began to pass," Caines says. "Those folks were getting old, their time was finishing, and no one concerned themselves with cricket anymore."

"It was a great loss that cricket died out," says Joseph. "For many of us, it was our sport. But baseball becomes the English sport here and it almost teaches the same things as cricket did. The English gained acceptance by playing baseball, and we found more benefit in it because in cricket we never were paid."

★ ★ ★

Dominicans born after 1920 grew up with baseball on the ascent. Introduced by Cubans, as well as Dominicans who had studied in the



THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



The Dominican Republic comprises 30 provinces. The map shows the provincial roots of the 50 players in the major leagues last season who are natives of the Caribbean nation.

United States, the game won the hearts of the youth long before the U.S. Marines arrived in 1916. But during their eight-year occupation, the Marines nudged the game along, playing ball in Miramar, the English section of San Pedro.

National championships in 1936 and 1937 made the Dominican Republic the epicenter of Caribbean baseball. Teams recruited top Cuban, Puerto Rican and Venezuelan play-

ers, including Hall of Famer Martin Dihigo, Perucho Cepeda and Silvio Garcia. When Negro Leaguers such as Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige and Cool Papa Bell joined the competition in '37, baseball on the island may have been the best played anywhere that summer.

"My older brother used to carry me to those games on his shoulders," Caines says. "The Negro Leaguers came here to Consuelo to play on the estate's golf course — the only

blacks to do that." Locals caroused with the foreign reinforcements at dance halls during the week and cheered for them on the weekends, their passion for the new sport growing with each game.

Trujillo's minions sanctioned baseball on all levels during the 1940s, organizing national tournaments, sending teams to the *Mundiales* (the world amateur championships) and further professionalizing the game. "Baseball

overpowered cricket in Consuelo and the other estates," says Joseph, who, along with his cricket-playing peers, watched their sons grow up playing the new sport. "The great (baseball) players around here are English or their descendants. It has to do with cricket. It's got to be that."

For Pedro Gonzalez, it's a matter of deportment. "The English have a very organized, very disciplined community here," he says. "They grow up with manners. If the father says 9 o'clock in bed, it don't mean 10 after 9." At 6-0, Gonzalez has the height and musculature that Dominican ballplayers of English descent often possess. "We are big people," he says. "Look at Rico Carty, George Bell, Pedro Guerrero, myself. We all have English blood and we are each bigger than most Dominicans."

Not all the prospects emerging from San Pedro sandlots are of English descent, but, historically, the principal concentrations of talent have been on the estates with the most English and the best cricket — a fact often

reflected in players' surnames. Son Howell, Garabato Sackie, Chico Conton and Clemente Hart — all of whom played cricket — starred in Dominican baseball in the '40s and '50s. Third-generation islanders Griffin, Bell, Guerrero, Juan Samuel, Mariano Duncan, Manny Lee and Jose Offerman lead the current crop of San Pedro players in the major leagues.

"One could say that it is perhaps from the

Fifteen *Macorisanos* played for major league clubs last season, including (left to right) George Bell, Juan Samuel and Julio Franco.

country, is remembered with admiration. "He opened our eyes," William Joseph says.

The Santa Ana Ball Club, meanwhile, became a hothouse for talent, touching the careers of many a manager and player in the area. Griffin, who grew up playing ball in the streets and fields of Guachupita, caught on to the tail end of the Santa Ana club. "Austin Jacobo and Roberto Caines were working in the community, helping kids to play," Griffin says. "Bibi (Caines) handled me for a while when I was a second baseman. He was a big influence. Right now, he's one of the guys running my little league in Consuelo. And Austin Jacobo would look at a kid and know when he was ready to play on a higher level."

"When I grew up, I realized that most of the kids from Consuelo that are professional ballplayers now are probably there because of him and the other men who worked and fought hard to have sport in Consuelo."

"The English people here had good ways to raise kids. They were very strict and the kids respect them. That was, for me, the main



seed of cricket that baseball blossomed," says Sebastian "Basilio" Ferdinand, 83, a former cricket arbiter. "The tradition coming down has made them better players."

★ ★ ★

Joseph Ainslie, a Canadian priest, came to Consuelo in 1947. Today the man the town remembers as Padre Jose sits in the rectory of his parish, north of Kingston, Ontario, near where he grew up. He shakes his head at the thought of the trying conditions he encountered 45 years ago. "I had to get a technique to introduce myself to the melee," he says. "Since I saw the obvious, that they loved baseball, I thought that this would help me infiltrate the people."

Working with Luis Carty (Rico's uncle), Austin Jacobo, Caines and others who nurtured baseball during its early years in Consuelo, Ainslie established a ballclub, naming it after the Santa Ana Church. It was wildly successful and enabled him to mobilize for better housing, form cooperatives and end usurious money-lending. Ainslie, who spent three years in Consuelo before government and sugarmill pressures drove him out of the

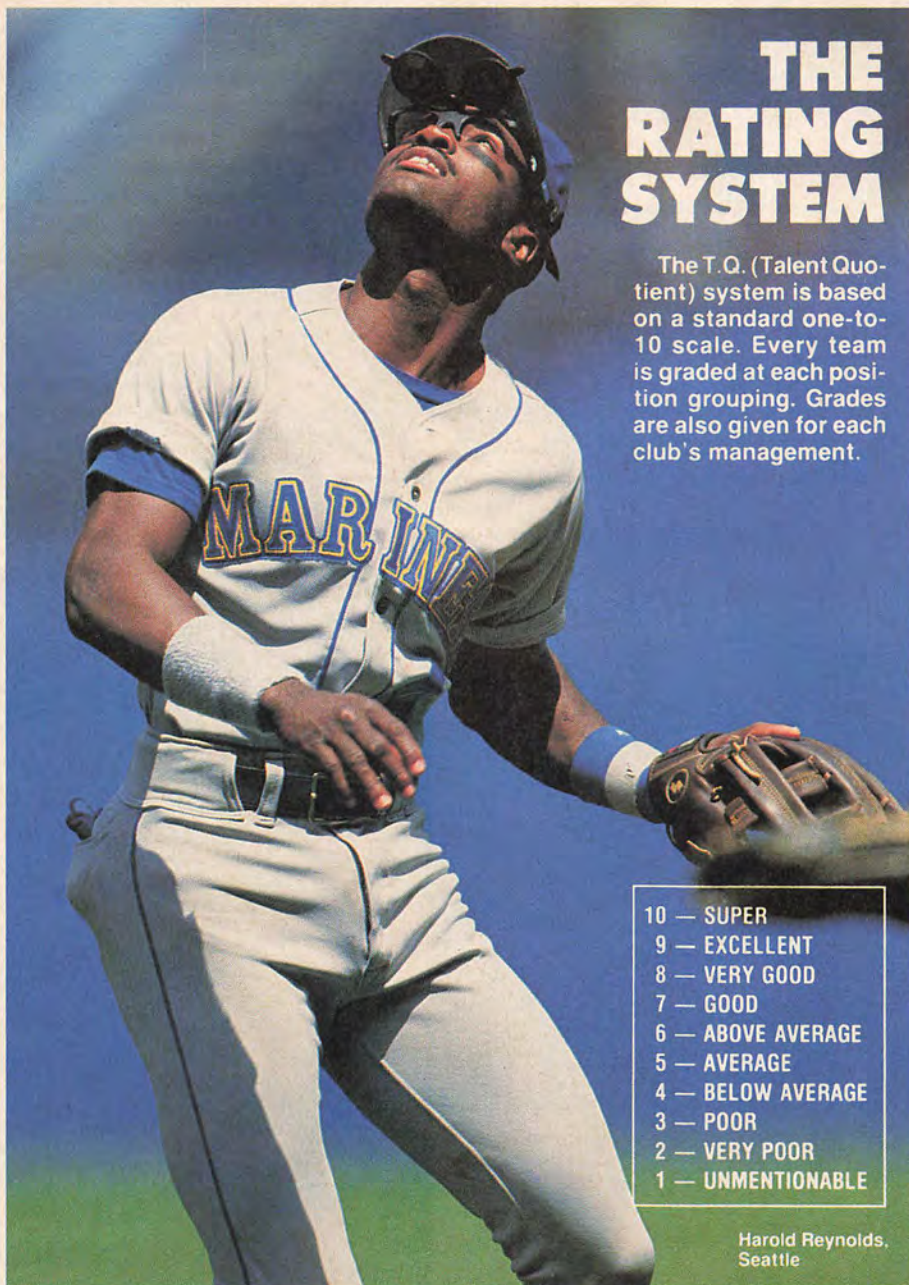
thing. If you have respect and discipline when you organize something, you're gonna be successful. I guess it comes from playing cricket. A lot of people ask me why so many players from Consuelo. For me, that's one of the answers."

★ ★ ★

If there is a secret to baseball in San Pedro de Macoris, it is this: An informal network of men and boys linked their sporting life to the larger quest of building a community in a new land, amid the deprivation of the *bateys* and *ingenios*. Putting aside cricket for baseball, the next generations Dominicanized this passion for sport and moved into the vanguard of baseball, both in the Caribbean and the United States.

Back in Guachupita, Joseph scratches the head of a 10-day-old goat as Caines returns the wooden chairs to the kitchen. Then, arm in arm, they set off through the streets of the community they helped build into a place to live and a place to play. □

Rob Ruck is the author of *The Tropic of Baseball*, a history of the game in the Dominican Republic.



THE RATING SYSTEM

The T.Q. (Talent Quotient) system is based on a standard one-to-10 scale. Every team is graded at each position grouping. Grades are also given for each club's management.

- 10 — SUPER
- 9 — EXCELLENT
- 8 — VERY GOOD
- 7 — GOOD
- 6 — ABOVE AVERAGE
- 5 — AVERAGE
- 4 — BELOW AVERAGE
- 3 — POOR
- 2 — VERY POOR
- 1 — UNMENTIONABLE

Harold Reynolds,
Seattle

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42.0 and over	Championship Caliber; Exceptionally Strong and Balanced
37.0 to 41.5	Definite Pennant Contender
32.0 to 36.5	Generally Solid but Still Some Questions
27.0 to 31.5	Longshot With Too Many Holes to Seriously Threaten
26.5 and under	Major Rebuilding Project

FINAL T.Q.s

NL EAST

Pittsburgh	39.5
New York	37.0
Chicago	35.0
Philadelphia	34.5
St. Louis	34.5
Montreal	28.0

NL WEST

Cincinnati	41.0
Atlanta	39.0
Los Angeles	37.5
San Diego	37.0
San Francisco	34.5
Houston	29.0

AL EAST

Toronto	42.5
Boston	37.5
Baltimore	34.5
Detroit	34.0
Milwaukee	32.5
New York	32.5
Cleveland	28.0

AL WEST

Chicago	40.0
Oakland	39.0
Texas	36.0
Minnesota	36.0
Seattle	33.0
Kansas City	33.0
California	32.5

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NL EAST

1991 STANDINGS

	W-L	PCT	GB
Pittsburgh	98-64	.605	—
St. Louis	84-78	.519	14
Philadelphia	78-84	.481	20
Chicago	77-83	.481	20
New York	77-84	.478	20½
Montreal	71-90	.441	26½

5-YEAR SCAN

	W-L	PCT	AVG. DIV. FINISH
New York	447-360	.554	2.4
Pittsburgh	432-376	.535	2.6
St. Louis	411-399	.507	3.4
Montreal	409-400	.506	3.8
Chicago	400-407	.496	3.6
Philadelphia	367-442	.454	4.6

1992

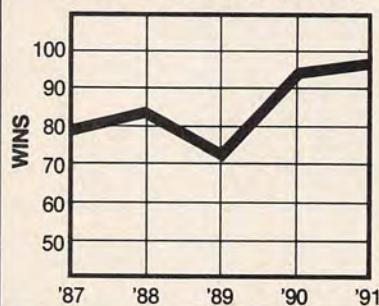
1. Pittsburgh
2. New York
3. Chicago
4. Philadelphia
5. St. Louis
6. Montreal

Jay Bell, Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

1991 RECORD: 98-64 MANAGER: JIM LEYLAND STADIUM: THREE RIVERS (58,729)

5-YEAR SCAN



Years from now, when baseball pooh-bahs have some kind of salary cap (earned no doubt via devastating labor strife) or half the clubs have moved to Japan because it is the only country that can meet the payrolls, the Pirates might be remembered as the team that free agency killed.

The defections began in 1990, and the past offseason Bobby Bonilla became the first star to bolt from the National League's best team over the past two years. Barry Bonds is sure to follow after this season, as could Doug Drabek, John Smiley and others. Part of the problem is that enough money cannot be generated in the small Pittsburgh market for the Pirates to compete for mega-dollar free-

agent players. And the front office hardly can be credited with being creative in finding ways to cope with the situation.

The Pirates, though, aren't quite yet ready to walk the plank. For another year at least, manager Jim Leyland has excellent pitching at his disposal. For another year at least, the defense remains solid at most positions. The offense, without Bonilla, will have to make adjustments. All in all, this still is a club strong enough to be extremely tough in the pennant race.

PITCHING Bobby Bonilla and Barry Bonds get headlines, and Andy Van Slyke delivers the game's best one-liners. But the guts of the Pirates has been the pitching staff. This isn't a flashy bunch, loaded with flamethrowers boasting eye-catching strikeout numbers. However, the important numbers don't lie. The staff ERA over the past two years is the best in baseball. Though lacking an established closer, the Pirates tied for the National League lead in saves last year. The pitchers issued fewer walks than any other staff in the majors. It is a hearty group, well-conditioned and used intelligently by Leyland and pitching coach Ray Miller. It is a staff that most clubs would die to have.

STARTING PITCHING If you are one of those Rotisserie robots, you might think the ace of this staff is John Smiley, because he won 20 games in 1991. If you ask the Bucs, they will tell you without hesitation that the ace is righthander Doug Drabek. If there was any doubt, it was resolved in the playoffs last season. Drabek beat Atlanta in the opener and was a hard-luck, 1-0 loser in his epic Game 6 duel with Steve Avery, when the only run was scored in the ninth inning. Smiley, meanwhile, recorded eight outs in his two playoff losses.

Doug Drabek

Drabek had post-Cy Young blues early last season, opening with three losses and only one win in his first seven starts. But after drooping to 2-7, he went 13-7 the rest of the way. He was 5-4 in starts the day after a Pirates loss. Over the past four seasons, Drabek has averaged 16 victories and 232 innings, and his ERA has hovered between 2.76 and 3.08.

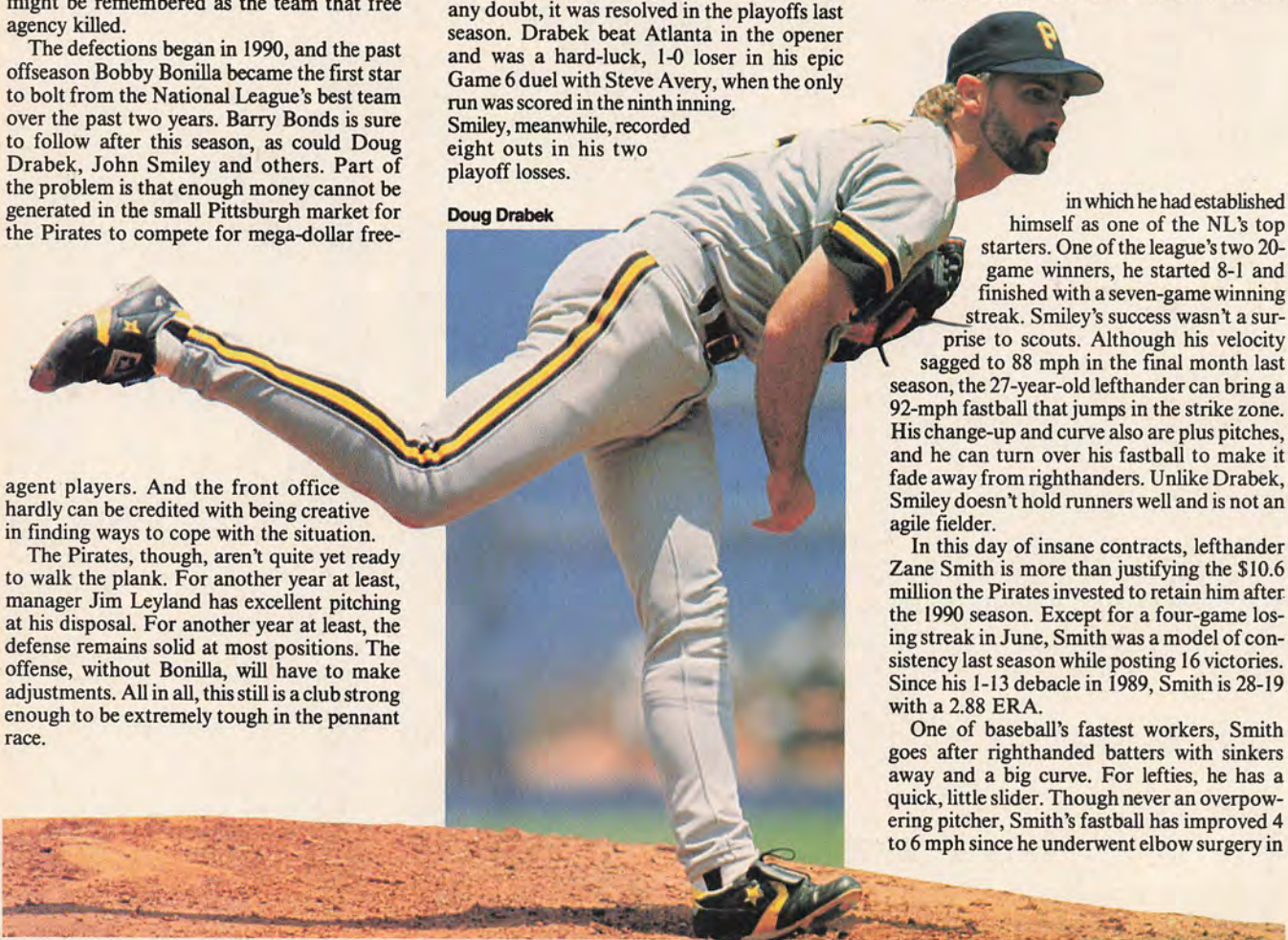
Drabek got into trouble last year when he lost his slider — his best pitch — for several starts. It never really was consistent, the main reason why opponents hit him at a .274 clip. Yet Drabek, a tough, resourceful pitcher, finds many ways to get outs. He attacks with an 88-mph sinker, commands a slow and a hard curve, and uses his slider like a cut fastball against righthanded swingers. His control is so good that a 2-0 count means he's still ahead of the batter. Drabek is a fine fielder, holds runners well and is one of the game's best hitting pitchers, collecting 15 knocks last season.

Smiley's playoff failures sullied a season

in which he had established himself as one of the NL's top starters. One of the league's two 20-game winners, he started 8-1 and finished with a seven-game winning streak. Smiley's success wasn't a surprise to scouts. Although his velocity sagged to 88 mph in the final month last season, the 27-year-old lefthander can bring a 92-mph fastball that jumps in the strike zone. His change-up and curve also are plus pitches, and he can turn over his fastball to make it fade away from righthanders. Unlike Drabek, Smiley doesn't hold runners well and is not an agile fielder.

In this day of insane contracts, lefthander Zane Smith is more than justifying the \$10.6 million the Pirates invested to retain him after the 1990 season. Except for a four-game losing streak in June, Smith was a model of consistency last season while posting 16 victories. Since his 1-13 debacle in 1989, Smith is 28-19 with a 2.88 ERA.

One of baseball's fastest workers, Smith goes after righthanded batters with sinkers away and a big curve. For lefties, he has a quick, little slider. Though never an overpowering pitcher, Smith's fastball has improved 4 to 6 mph since he underwent elbow surgery in



1988. Control, though, remains his biggest ally. Smith issued more than two walks in a start only once last season, and his 1.1 walks per nine innings ratio was the best in the NL. Beginning in 1990 and continuing until last September, he had a streak of 282 innings without walking a leadoff hitter.

The development of lefthander Randy Tomlin has solidified the rotation. His 2.98 ERA last season was the lowest among the starters. Though Tomlin didn't win after Aug. 16, better run support would have improved his 8-7 record. The Pirates scored 15 runs in his losses. Tomlin throws a lot of slow stuff for strikes and keeps his pitches down. Using a big, slow-breaking curve from a sidearm angle, he is death to lefty swingers, who managed only a .172 average last season. Tomlin's pickoff move is among the best in the league.

The fifth starter likely will be veteran righthander Bob Walk, who has turned nibbling into an art form. Walk strives to get righthanded swingers to bite on a slider off the plate and works lefties with a sinker away. When not on the DL, Walk is a battler and can be reliable for about six innings or three hours, whichever comes first.

Another possibility is righthander Vicente Palacios, who can throw in the low 90s, mixes in a good split-finger pitch and had a 2.95 ERA in seven starts last year. However, Palacios has had rotator cuff problems throughout his career, and the Pirates know he could break down at any time.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

RELIEF PITCHING Seven pitchers saved games for the Pirates in 1991. The bullpen committee had 51 saves, tying for the NL lead. While the system works, this could be the season when righthander Stan Belinda becomes the closer.

Belinda's control keeps improving, without sacrificing what at times is overpowering stuff. He delivers 93-mph sinking heat from a low sidearm angle, and will have a good slider if he learns to trust it. Belinda averaged 8.2 strikeouts per nine innings last season, and limited lefty swingers to a .203 average. Righties batted a meek .168, but tagged him for six home runs. Belinda gave up 10 homers in 78 innings, which is bad enough for a reliever, but it was inexcusable that nine of those gopherballs came when he used a pitch other than a fast ball. Belinda also needs to take his good stuff on the road, where he had only three saves and a 5.15 ERA, compared with 13 and 1.94 at Three Rivers.

The Pirates are anxious for Belinda to develop because they are tired of righthander Bill Landrum's teasing act. While he had 17 saves last season, none came after Aug. 29, and he lost four straight decisions from July 4 to Aug. 26. Landrum can throw 90 mph, but his fastball tends to be true. And the tighter the situation, the less confidence he seems to have in his complementary pitches.

When Landrum disappeared last season, it was an opportunity for Roger Mason, and the retread righthander proved to be as significant a find for the Pirates as Carl Willis was for the Twins. Relying on a newly perfected split-finger pitch, Mason allowed only one of 21 inherited runners to score, and righthanders hit but .189 against him. While everyone wishes Mason well, two things should be remembered: He is 33 and has a history of elbow problems.

Bob Patterson is a handy lefthander to have

around. He has just enough fastball to set up a sharp curve that does in lefty swingers (.181 last season). However, his stuff doesn't work quite so well against righthanders (.310). Neal Heaton remains lefthanded, but better start making something of it if he wants to keep his job. Lefties pounded him at a .354 clip last season. Since a 10-4 record at the break in 1990 landed him on the All-Star team, Heaton is 5-8 with a 3.94 ERA.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

CATCHING One is nicknamed "Spanky," the other "Sluggo." While they hardly cut striking appearances in the tools of ignorance, Mike LaValliere and Don Slaught provide the Pirates with reliable and professional work behind the plate.

Roly-poly LaValliere, the lefthanded bat in the platoon, is a gamer. He makes solid contact, drives the ball into left-center and rarely strikes out. He batted .301 against righties last season, and rarely had to face lefties (54 at-bats). Spanky has pillow-soft hands, runs a game with aplomb, and masks an average arm with an ultra-quick release and accuracy. He led NL catchers in fielding percentage last season.

Slaught is an agile receiver and gets rid of the ball quickly. He tends to be a streaky thrower, and has learned to call a game by glancing toward the bench to see what pitching coach Ray Miller wants next. Sluggo handles a bat well enough to hit No. 2 in the order. He will take his hacks early in the count, looking for fastballs middle in to pull, then shorten up with two strikes and go with the pitch. For the past two seasons, he is a .298 hitter and has a .369 on-base percentage.

LaValliere and Slaught combined for 70 RBIs last season, which was more than any NL club received from its catchers except San Diego. LaValliere has had knee problems and Slaught has been susceptible to nagging injuries throughout his career, so a platoon system is ideal for both.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

INFIELD Jay Bell no longer is one of baseball's most underrated players. On the NL shortstop ladder, he looks up at only Barry Larkin and Ozzie Smith. Larkin was the only NL shortstop last season to top Bell's 16 home runs and 67 RBIs. Bell played in more games (157) and had more total chances (754) than any other shortstop in the league. And for the second straight year, he led the NL in sacrifice bunts (30).

Bell knows how to play hitters and rarely is caught on his heels, which enhances his average arm strength and range. He has sure hands and usually an accurate arm, although most of his 24 errors last season were on errant throws. At the plate, Bell has two approaches. With runners on, he exhibits good bat control and can sting an outside pitch the opposite way. With the bases empty, he tends to swing for the fences and is vulnerable to breaking pitches away, tendencies that accounted for many of his 99 strikeouts last season. At 26, Bell figures to be entering his prime years.

Everyone knows about the acrobatic skills of second baseman Jose Lind. Remember his stunt on national TV a few years back, leaping over Joe Garagiola's head without skidding off Joe's chrome-dome? Lind, though, is more than just flash and flair. In addition to covering more ground and turning the double play

quicker than any other NL second baseman, he is dependable. Lind made only nine errors while handling the most total chances (796) among his NL counterparts last season. Offensively, he's about as much as a club can expect from a No. 8 hitter, delivering a career-high 54 RBIs last season. Lind looks for fastballs up and out over the plate and can drive them to right field with his inside-out swing. Though not a well-disciplined hitter, he doesn't chase many bad pitches.

Well-set up the middle, the Pirates ensured themselves of similar stability at third by resigning Steve Buechele, one of the game's most unnoticed good players. Buechele hit 22 home runs and had a career-high 85 RBIs (19 in 31 games with the Pirates) in his combined 1991 season with Texas and Pittsburgh. Widely considered the best glove man at third base in the American League, Buechele set an AL record at his position last season with a .991 fielding percentage. He combines quick reactions and soft hands with a very accurate arm. Buechele always has been vulnerable to inside hard stuff, and will see a lot of it in this league. He feasts on mistake pitches, pulling them with power.

The Pirates have several options at first base. They could stay with the platoon of Orlando Merced and Gary Redus. Used mainly in the leadoff spot, they produced 17 homers and 74 RBIs last year. Merced was a pleasant surprise in his rookie season. A switch-hitter used almost exclusively from the left side, he hit 10 home runs, seven of which tied or won games. He sprays the ball around and can jack a down-and-in fastball out of the park. Redus is a dead fastball hitter and remains an above-average runner. Merced and Redus have adequate gloves, at best.

If the Pirates include Merced and Redus in the derby to replace Bobby Bonilla in right field, Lloyd McClendon and Jeff King are available to play first.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

OUTFIELD Unless they engineer a reasonably equitable trade for Barry Bonds before he gains free-agent freedom at the end of the season, the Pirates will have two-thirds of the best outfield in the major leagues.

While his attitude might be disgusting on occasion, and teammates sometimes have to refrain from punching him out, the numbers don't lie: Bonds has been the best all-around player in the game the past two years. He has hit 58 homers, driven in 230 runs, stolen 95 bases, scored 199 runs and played the best left field (27 assists) in the world. What made his 1991 season so amazing was that he woke up on May 14 batting .170 with two home runs and 14 RBIs. From then on, his numbers were .322, 23 and 102 in 126 games.

Swinging one of the quickest bats in the league and adept at adjusting his trigger for off-speed pitches, Bonds has few holes. Cincinnati and Atlanta have demonstrated in the playoffs the past two seasons that Bonds is susceptible to good inside heat off the plate, but he doesn't face people like Steve Avery, John Smoltz, Jose Rijo and Rob Dibble every day. No lefty swinger in the majors hangs in against lefthanders better than Bonds, who batted .284 against them and .298 against righties last season. He's a superb baserunner, and no other leftfielder goes back for balls or plays the line as well as he does. The only thing average about Bonds is his arm.

Entrenched in center is irrepressible Andy



Jose Lind

Van Slyke, who is among the most dependable players in the game. If healthy, which he has been in all but one year of his career, expect Van Slyke to bat about .270 and deliver 15 to 20 homers and 75 to 90 RBIs. However, it's his defense that sets him apart. No other NL centerfielder has a better arm than Van Slyke or goes back for balls as well. He might be the best in baseball at keeping runners from taking extra bases. At the plate, Van Slyke is a first-pitch hacker, looking to jump on a low fastball, middle in. Righties try to work him away with hard stuff, and lefties neutralize him with breaking pitches. He batted only .194 against lefties last season. Though his speed has slowed to average, Van Slyke has the running instincts to remain a base-stealing threat.

Who replaces the \$29 million man, smiling Bobby Bonilla, in right will be determined in spring training. A platoon is likely. Orlando Merced or Gary Redus could move from first base. Jeff King, if his back is healthy, is a possibility. Bit players Lloyd McClendon, Gary

Varsho and Cecil Espy could fit into the mix. McClendon offers an occasional long ball, and Varsho makes solid opposite-field contact and runs well, but both are poor fielders. Espy can play defense and run, but routinely gets the bat knocked out of his hands. If the Pirates can mix and match enough to get about 70 RBIs from right field, they will be well satisfied. **GRADE (max. 10): 7.5**

MANAGEMENT Jim Leyland is one of the top managers, as big an asset to the Pirates as the best of his players. He is a master at using players in situations where they have their best chance for success. Nobody does a better job than Leyland at keeping a pitching staff fresh. Only twice in the past two seasons has a Pirates starter had to work on fewer than four days' rest. His closer-less bullpen doesn't wear down because Leyland won't use a pitcher more than two days in succession, even if it means sacrificing a game now and then. Leyland set the tone for an entire season last spring when he confronted petu-

lant Barry Bonds, in full view of the entire club, and told his best player to shape up or get the hell out.

Leyland is in for the long haul. He signed a five-year agreement in January, binding him to the Pirates through 1996. Many thought that rather than risk having his team crumble around him as free agent after free agent slipped out the door, Leyland would prefer to start over with the expansion Florida Marlins. One of his best friends is Marlins president Carl Barger. Leyland has made his commitment, and now it's up to ownership to foot the bill for a winner.

The Pirates front office is in upheaval. Larry Doughty was fired as general manager in January, shortly after Mark Sauer was hired as club president. **GRADE (max. 10): 7.0**

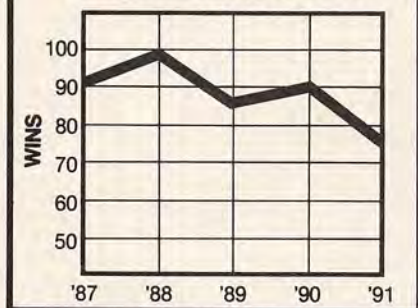
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PITCHERS														INFIELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Ausanio, Joe	R-R	6-1	205	26	AA-AAA	2-2	3.86	22	5	33	33	19	28	254	Bell, Jay	R-R	6-1	185	26	Pittsburgh	.270	.330	608	96	164	32	8	16	67	10	
Bolinda, Stan	R-R	6-3	200	25	Pittsburgh	7-5	3.45	60	16	78	50	35	71	184	Buechele, Steve	R-R	6-2	200	30	Texas	.267	.335	416	58	111	17	2	18	66	0	
Cole, Victor	R-R	5-10	160	24	AA-AAA	2-5	2.77	45	12	65	45	48	67	193					Pittsburgh	.246	.315	114	16	28	5	1	4	19	0		
Drabek, Doug	R-R	6-1	185	29	Pittsburgh	15-14	3.07	35	0	235	245	62	142	274	Garcia, Carlos	R-R	6-1	185	24	AAA	.266	.322	463	62	123	21	6	7	60	30	
Heaton, Neal	L-L	6-1	205	32	Pittsburgh	3-3	4.33	42	0	69	72	21	34	275					Pittsburgh	.250	.280	24	2	6	0	2	0	1	0		
Landrum, Bill	R-R	6-2	205	33	Pittsburgh	4-4	3.18	61	17	76	76	19	45	252	King, Jeff	R-R	6-1	185	27	AAA	.222	.417	18	3	4	1	1	0	2	1	
Mason, Roger	R-R	6-6	220	33	AAA	9-5	3.08	34	0	123	115	44	80	249					Pittsburgh	.239	.328	109	36	26	1	1	4	18	3		
					Pittsburgh	3-2	3.03	24	3	30	21	6	21	200	Lind, Jose	R-R	5-11	175	27	Pittsburgh	.265	.306	502	53	133	16	6	3	54	7	
Miller, Paul	R-R	6-5	215	26	AA-AAA	12-4	2.02	25	0	156	10	64	99	197	Merced, Orlando	S-R	5-11	175	25	AAA	.167	.231	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	
					Pittsburgh	0-0	5.40	1	0	5	4	3	2	222					Pittsburgh	.275	.373	411	83	113	17	2	10	50	8		
Minor, Blas	R-R	6-3	195	26	AA-AAA	2-2	5.69	20	0	49	55	22	43	284	Redus, Gary	R-R	6-1	195	35	Pittsburgh	.246	.324	252	45	62	12	2	7	24	17	
Palacios, Vicente	R-R	6-3	195	28	AAA	0-0	1.42	3	2	6	7	2	7	280	Richardson, Jeff	R-R	6-2	180	26	AAA	.258	.325	186	21	48	16	2	1	24	5	
					Pittsburgh	6-3	3.75	36	3	82	69	38	64	228					Pittsburgh	.250	.250	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Patterson, Bob	R-L	6-2	192	32	Pittsburgh	4-3	4.11	54	2	66	67	15	57	267	Shelton, Ben	R-L	6-3	210	22	A	.247	.384	372	56	92	18	5	15	76	5	
Reed, Rick	R-R	6-0	205	27	AAA	14-4	2.15	25	0	168	151	26	102	245	Wehrner, John	R-R	6-3	204	24	AA-AAA	.277	.346	346	48	96	14	3	4	36	23	
					Pittsburgh	0-0	10.38	1	0	4	8	1	2	400					Pittsburgh	.340	.381	106	15	36	7	0	0	7	3		
Rodriguez, Rosario	R-L	6-0	195	22	AAA	4-3	3.00	48	8	51	38	31	43	215	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
					Pittsburgh	1-1	4.11	18	6	15	14	8	10	246	Bonds, Barry	L-L	6-1	190	27	Pittsburgh	.292	.410	510	95	149	28	5	25	116	43	
Roesler, Mike	R-R	6-5	200	28	AA-AAA	7-8	4.01	53	14	74	66	36	64	237	Bullett, Scott	L-L	6-2	200	23	AA-AAA	.298	.343	540	83	161	28	11	3	51	63	
Smiley, John	L-L	6-4	200	27	Pittsburgh	20-8	3.08	33	0	208	194	44	129	251					Pittsburgh	.000	.200	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Smith, Zane	L-L	6-2	200	31	Pittsburgh	16-10	3.20	35	0	228	234	29	120	268	Espy, Cecil	S-R	6-3	195	29	AAA	.312	.365	398	69	124	27	10	2	43	22	
Torlman, Randy	L-L	5-11	179	25	Pittsburgh	8-7	2.98	31	0	175	170	54	104	254					Pittsburgh	.244	.281	82	7	20	4	0	1	11	4		
Walk, Bob	R-R	6-4	217	35	Pittsburgh	9-2	3.60	25	0	115	104	35	67	240	McDaniel, Terry	S-R	5-9	205	25	AAA	.248	.339	399	63	99	23	6	9	42	17	
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			New York (NL)	.207	.233	29	3	6	1	0	0	9	7			
LaValiere, Mike	L-R	5-10	210	31	Pittsburgh	.289	.351	336	25	97	11	2	3	41	2	McLendon, Lloyd	R-R	5-11	210	33	Pittsburgh	.288	.366	163	24	47	7	0	7	24	2
Prince, Tom	R-R	5-11	185	27	AAA	.208	.336	221	29	46	8	3	6	32	3	Van Slyke, Andy	L-R	6-2	195	31	Pittsburgh	.265	.355	491	87	130	24	7	17	83	10
					Pittsburgh	.265	.405	34	4	9	3	0	1	2	0	Varsho, Gary	L-R	5-11	190	30	Pittsburgh	.273	.344	187	23	51	11	2	4	23	9
Romero, Mandy	S-R	5-11	196	24	AA	.217	.313	323	28	70	12	0	3	31	1																
Slaughter, Don	R-R	6-1	190	33	Pittsburgh	.295	.363	220	19	65	17	1	1	29	1	Coaches	Rich Donnelly	Terry Collins	Milt May	Ray Miller	Tommy Sandt										

NEW YORK METS

1991 RECORD: 77-84 MANAGER: JEFF TORBORG STADIUM: SHEA (55,601)

5-YEAR SCAN



Even with all the bad chemistry and rotten attitudes, with Darryl Strawberry and all the key elements long since departed, with Bud Harrelson totally overmatched in the dugout, it is long forgotten that the Mets were 15 games over .500 and four games out of first place after Dwight Gooden beat the Dodgers last July 21. The Mets were in the race and playing their best ball of the season.

But the former scourge of the National League East disintegrated before our very eyes. New York dropped its next four games to begin a collapse of biblical proportions. They lost 23 of their next 27. From that 15-over-.500 day on, the Mets went 24-46. It was as ugly as it looked. Gooden was lost because of a rotator cuff injury. Frank Viola, the sham of an ace, won one game from Aug. 8 through Sept. 28. Dave Magadan was shelved because of shoulder problems. Vince Coleman argued with coaches, Gregg Jefferies argued with teammates, Kevin McReynolds left the clubhouse after games before Kiner's Corner had signed off. The pitching staff was a shell of its former proud self.

How did the Mets address their problems? Well, give them credit for tearing apart the fabric of the team with a series of blockbuster moves that quickly could return them to prominence. Spurred by new general manager Al Harazin, the Mets hired Jeff Torborg, a popular and accomplished manager who happens to be a New Jersey native. They spent nearly \$40 million to sign Bobby Bonilla and Eddie Murray for proven run production and pennant-race savvy. Finally, they pulled the trigger on a mega-deal that netted Bret Saberhagen, one of the game's best pitchers, and dispatched to Kansas City two of their symbols of decline — McReynolds, the \$3 Million Mope, and Jefferies, the much-loathed brat.

A lot of ifs remain around Shea Stadium. But this club suddenly has become much scarier than the fractious bunch that finished the 1991 season.

PITCHING Nothing better symbolizes how times have changed. What set New York apart from mere baseball mortals was its imposing array of arms. However, three NL teams had better staff ERAs last year than the Mets. The vaunted starting rotation had three wins in a row only four times all season. The bullpen blew the fourth-most save opportunities in the league. Many problems remain. Not since the days of Bruce Berenyi and Mike Torrez has a Mets pitching staff had more questions than the 1992 edition. For the first time in years, the Mets enter spring training not sure how it all will fit together.

STARTING PITCHING Strange as it may seem for a club that at one point couldn't find room for Rick Aguilera, the Mets enter this season with exactly two givens in their rotation. And they can thank Kansas City for both of them.

One is Bret Saberhagen. At 28, he has won two Cy Young awards and may not have reached his prime. Last season the wiry right-hander posted a 13-8 record that could have been much better with more support. Saberhagen finished among the top 10 in several AL categories, including ERA (3.07), opponents' batting average (.228) and baserunners per nine innings (10.04).

Saberhagen is power and precision. He has terrific command of an overpowering fastball, a hard curve and a straight change that he will throw anywhere in the count. In eight seasons, he has averaged 1.8 walks per nine innings (best among active pitchers). Only Roger Clemens and Greg Swindell top his career strikeout/walk ratio of 3.3 to 1. Saberhagen also is a finisher. He has completed 48 of his last 151 starts.

Righthander David Cone — a Royal five years removed — is the other certain starter, although certain and Cone probably don't belong in the same sentence. Despite a dazzling repertoire, including sinister breaking stuff, Cone can go from unhittable to eminently hittable from one start to the next. He has led the NL in strikeouts the past two seasons, yet needed a three-hit, 19-strikeout shutout in his final start last year, against Philadelphia, to finish 14-14. His record the past two seasons is an undistinguished 28-24.

The biggest rap against Cone is that he doesn't know how to get out of trouble. When confronted with adversity, he resorts to throwing instead of pitching. On the flip side, Cone racks up innings (233 in '91) and makes life tough on hitters (.235). During his career, he has limited opponents to a .228 average and averaged 8.6 strikeouts per nine innings.

No one, least of all the Mets brass, knows what to expect from Dwight Gooden this year or beyond. Even before the injury to his right shoulder, he had ceased to be the mythic fig-

ure who went 41-10 in 1985-86. The old 95-mph fastball has slipped into the low 90s, and most scouts regard his curve as his best pitch. Although Gooden has gone 32-14 the past two seasons, opponents have hit him at a .257 clip, some 40 points higher than in his previous six seasons.

No member of the Mets is more respected than Gooden. In a clubhouse where backstabbing has been a way of life, he was the exception. And if he doesn't take the ball every five days, the Mets not only suffer a huge hole in their staff, but a similar gap in their collective psyche. No one will be watched more closely in spring training than Doc.

Even if Gooden returns at peak efficiency, the Mets need a fourth starter they can count on. Rotund lefthander Sid Fernandez has been anything but dependable lately. After missing the first three months last season because of a broken wrist, The Incredible Bulk made just eight starts before knee problems forced him to undergo surgery. As part of his rehabilitation, the Mets had Fernandez enter a fat farm in hopes of controlling his weight during his inactivity.

Fernandez, who has the funkiest of deliveries, gets on top of hitters quickly with a deceptive, 87-mph fastball and fools them with a slow curve. Over his nine-year career, he has been the toughest lefthander in baseball to solve, limiting opponents to a .204 average. But El Sid is a six-inning pitcher, and his record the past two seasons is 10-17.

Lefthander Pete Schourek and righthander Wally Whitehurst are candidates for the fifth spot. Schourek had some excellent starts late last season, including a one-hit shutout of Montreal. He relies on a hard sinker and big curve. Whitehurst has so-so stuff but superb control.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

RELIEF PITCHING Lefty John Franco has notched at least 30 saves in each of the past five seasons, and has converted 86.5 percent of his save opportunities (134 of 155) since 1988. Yet Franco did some uncharacteristic things last season. He gave up more hits than innings pitched for the first time in his career, and lefthanded hitters tattooed him at a .340 clip. He also lost nine games.

True to his Brooklyn roots, Franco is a street-savvy pitcher. He won't throw strikes unless you make him. Although he shows hitters an 88-mph fastball, he wants to get them out with his circle change. He uses a slider on lefthanded hitters.

Righthander Tim Burke, who logged a lot of innings as a closer in Montreal, moved into a setup role when he joined the Mets last July. After posting a 5.09 ERA in his first 16 appearances as a Met, Burke settled down and pitched well in the final 1½ months. He yielded four

earned runs in his final 19 appearances. It was the second straight year Burke struggled before getting in gear late. A balky slider has contributed to his ineffectiveness. He ditched it down the stretch last season, relying almost exclusively on a sinking fastball and change-up. Over the long haul, Burke has to rediscover his slider and throw it for strikes.

Submariner Jeff Innis was effective in middle relief last year, working in 69 games and limiting hitters to a .219 average. Innis, particularly tough on righties (.197), throws strikes with a sinker/slider mix. Lefty Paul Gibson,

acquired from Detroit in January, is effective with a sneaky fastball and sharp-breaking curve.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

CATCHING The job is Todd Hundley's to lose. At 22, he has first-rate defensive skills, including soft hands, quick feet and a strong, accurate arm. The son of former major league catcher Randy Hundley also has a good feel for the game.

The switch-hitting Hundley allayed fears about his offense when he hit .273 with 14 homers and 66 RBIs for Triple-A Tidewater

David Cone



last season. At this stage, he has an inside-out stroke from the right side and tends to pull the ball left-handed. Scouts project him as a .260 hitter with 12- to 15-homer power.

Mackey Sasser, whom no one wants to see th-th-th-throw the ball back to the pitcher, is the main backup. In addition to his well-documented throwing problems, Sasser has stiff hands and doesn't shift well. His asset is a line-drive bat from the left side. Charlie O'Brien, who has hit .178 in his two NL seasons, doesn't make up for it with his defense.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

INFIELD The renovated infield includes a couple of antiques on the right side, a re-modeled third baseman and a shortstop retrieved from the back room.

According to one scout, new first baseman Eddie Murray should have a few good years left. "He's well-preserved. I haven't seen him sweat in two years." Laconic as he might be, Murray, 36, remains dangerous. While no longer the intimidating force who drove in 124 runs for Baltimore in 1985, he is a reasonable facsimile. The switch-hitting Murray had 191 RBIs for the Dodgers the past two seasons, and has more (993) over the past 10 years than anyone else in baseball. What's more, his productive bat blazes in the heat of a pennant race. Murray has hit .312 lifetime in September/October while playing most of his career for contending clubs.

Murray has lost some bat speed, especially from the right side (.217 in '91). Yet he's a smart hitter who makes adjustments. The current book says to jam him with fastballs on both sides, then go to off-speed stuff — but don't neglect to vary the pitch pattern. Defensively, Murray waves at balls as they go by, but still receives throws very well.

New second baseman Willie Randolph refutes Thomas Wolfe's admonition that "You Can't Go Home Again." With the Yankees from 1976 through 1988, Randolph returns to Tall Town after putting up the best average (.327) of his career last season for Milwaukee. Other '91 highlights include an on-base percentage of .424 and a .373 average with runners in scoring position, both second best in the AL.

Randolph makes excellent contact and can hit behind a runner or bunt him along. Nobody has a better idea of the strike zone. Although he no longer covers the ground he once did, the 37-year-old has good anticipation and hands, and still is quick turning the deuce.

Kevin Elster has reclaimed his job at shortstop, which is welcome news for the mound corps. Mets pitchers used to hide their eyes when a ball was hit to the left side and he wasn't there. While Elster lacks the raw athletic ability of a Barry Larkin or Tony Fernandez, he knows the hitters, has a quick first step and gets himself in good position to throw. His hands are soft, his arm accurate. At the plate, Elster has some pop from the middle of the plate in, but tends to pull off the ball, leaving himself vulnerable to breaking stuff and fastballs away. His .241 average last season was a career high.

Entering spring training, Dave Magadan has a slight edge over Chris Donnels for the third base job. Magadan's forte is a line-drive bat. He's an extremely patient, inside-out hitter with limited power. Until last season, when he was bothered by injuries to both shoulders, the lefty-swinging Magadan never had hit below .277 in his five seasons. Donnels is far



Howard Johnson

superior with the glove, but has to show more thump to take the job.

Versatile Bill Pecota, who came from Kansas City along with Bret Saberhagen, affords Jeff Torborg flexibility. Pecota holds up at second, third or the outfield corners, and has some sting in his bat. Last season he hit a career-high .286 while playing regularly at third for the Royals. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

OUTFIELD Consider the strategic nightmares switch-hitters Bobby Bonilla, Howard Johnson and Eddie Murray will cause opposing managers, and the protection in the batting order they will afford each other. Scary, huh?

No one except Madonna is worth \$29 million, but don't blame Bonilla for accepting it. He just happened to be in the right place at the right time. In the past four years, Bonilla has averaged 25 home runs and 102 RBIs. He had a career-best .302 average last season, and finished among NL leaders in doubles (44, first), on-base percentage (.391, fourth) and runs scored (102, fourth). He hit for a better average lefthanded (.313) and more power from the right side (14 homers).

Bonilla has a fast bat from both sides. The harder a pitcher throws, the better he likes it. Although he has a reputation for hacking at off-speed stuff, he averaged only one strikeout per 8.6 at-bats last year. Bonilla, who has bounced from third base to right field and now left, is an adequate defender. He doesn't get a good jump or charge well, but has a strong arm and plays hard.

Like Bonilla, Johnson is an infielder-turned-outfielder. "Right field is where this guy should have been for the last 10 years," says a scout. "He made some mistakes out there, but he can run and his breaks will get better the more he plays."

The book on HoJo the hitter remains the same: Don't throw him anything hard for strikes; fool him with slop. A muscular 5-10, 195-pounder, Johnson has terrific hip and leg action, which helps him drive the ball out of sight. Last season he led the NL in home runs (38), RBIs (117) and extra-base hits (76). He finished second in slugging (.535) and runs

scored (108). Johnson, who has averaged more than 30 homers and 30 steals the past five seasons, had his third 30/30 campaign in '91. Only Bobby Bonds, with five, has more.

The Mets signed Vince Coleman to a megabucks contract, envisioning a firecracker at the top of their order. What they got last year was a dud. Undone by hamstring problems, the speedy Coleman was limited to 70 starts in center field.

The switch-hitting Coleman, fueled by the run producers behind him, should bounce back. A slap-and-dash hitter lefthanded, a pull hitter righthanded, Coleman has a .292, 77-steals season as recently as 1990. Speed is Coleman's only attribute in the field. He doesn't get good jumps, has trouble going back and has a below-average arm.

Dave Gallagher and Daryl Boston are valuable spares. Gallagher, a fine contact hitter, can play anywhere in the outfield. Boston has some power against righthanders and is good defensively. **GRADE (max. 10): 7.5**

MANAGEMENT Jeff Torborg hasn't been around the National League since he was catching no-hitters for the Dodgers in the mid 1960s. Consequently, he might need time to adapt to the personnel and the strategic differences in running an NL game. His intelligence ensures a swift adjustment. Dealing with personalities is another story. The Mets have eliminated some clubhouse problems, but Torborg inherits a potentially difficult mix of egos. How he handles them will go a long way toward determining the Mets' success.

Until last winter, Al Harazin had been known for conducting contract negotiations and doing Frank Cashen's bidding. However, teaming with personnel boss Gerry Hunsicker, Harazin, in his new role as general manager, showed the decisiveness to pull the trigger on major moves. Whether his trades work or not, Harazin has at least demonstrated that he won't be afraid to wheel and deal if the Mets need help. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.5**

T.Q.37.0

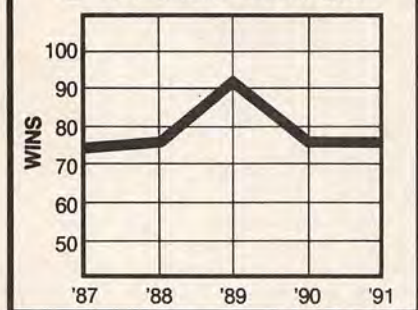
PITCHERS														CATCHERS																									
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB											
Bross, Terry	R-R	6-9	230	26	AA	4-0	3.56	47	7	58	44	43	51	.155	O'Brien, Charlie	R-R	6-2	190	30	New York	.185	.272	168	16	31	6	0	2	14	0									
					New York	0-0	1.80	8	0	10	7	3	5	200	Sasser, Mackey	L-R	6-1	210	29	New York	.272	.298	228	18	62	14	2	5	35	0									
Burke, Tim	R-R	6-3	205	33	Montreal	3-4	4.11	37	5	46	41	14	25	243	INFELDERS																								
					New York	3-3	2.75	35	1	56	55	12	34	255	Baez, Kevin	R-R	6-0	170	25	AAA	.171	.226	210	18	36	8	0	0	13	0									
Cone, David	L-R	6-1	190	29	New York	14-14	3.29	34	0	233	204	73	241	235	Donnels, Chris	L-R	6-0	185	25	AAA	.303	.425	287	45	87	18	2	8	56	1									
Fernandez, Sid	L-L	6-1	230	29	New York	1-3	2.86	8	0	44	36	9	31	222	New York																								
Franco, John	L-L	5-10	185	31	New York	5-9	2.93	52	30	55	61	18	45	271	Elster, Kevin	R-R	6-2	200	27	New York	.241	.318	348	33	84	16	2	6	36	2									
Gibson, Paul	R-L	6-0	185	32	Detroit	5-7	4.59	68	8	96	112	48	52	297	Magadan, Dave	L-R	6-3	200	29	New York	.258	.378	418	58	108	23	0	4	51	1									
Gooden, Dwight	R-R	6-3	210	27	New York	13-7	3.60	27	0	190	185	56	150	257	Murray, Eddie	S-R	6-2	222	36	Los Angeles	.260	.321	576	69	150	23	1	19	96	10									
Hillman, Eric	L-L	6-10	225	25	AAA	5-12	4.01	27	0	162	184	58	91	297	Navarro, Tito	S-R	5-10	155	21	AA	.288	.380	482	69	139	9	4	2	42	42									
Innis, Jeff	R-R	6-1	180	29	New York	0-2	2.66	69	0	85	66	23	47	219	Noboa, Junior	R-R	5-10	165	27	Montreal	.242	.250	95	5	23	3	0	1	2	2									
Johnstone, John	R-R	6-3	195	23	AA	7-9	3.97	27	0	165	159	79	99	255	Pecota, Bill	R-R	6-2	190	32	Kansas City	.286	.356	398	53	114	23	2	6	45	16									
Rosenberg, Steve	L-L	6-0	185	27	AAA	2-4	7.54	36	0	68	95	26	61	335	Randolph, Willie	R-R	5-11	171	37	Milwaukee	.327	.424	431	60	141	14	3	0	54	2									
					San Diego	1-1	6.94	10	0	12	11	5	6	250	OUTFIELDERS																								
Saberhagen, Bret	R-R	6-1	200	28	Kansas City	13-8	3.07	28	0	196	165	45	136	228	Bonilla, Bobby	B-T	6-3	240	29	Pittsburgh	.302	.391	577	102	174	44	6	18	100	2									
Schourek, Pete	L-L	6-5	195	22	AAA	1-1	2.52	4	0	25	18	10	17	202	Boston, Daryl	L-L	6-3	195	29	New York	.275	.350	255	40	70	16	4	4	21	15									
					New York	5-4	4.27	35	2	86	82	43	67	248	Coleman, Vince	R-R	6-1	185	30	New York	.255	.347	278	45	71	7	5	1	17	37									
Simons, Doug	L-L	6-0	160	25	New York	2-3	5.19	42	1	61	55	19	38	246	Gallagher, Dave	R-R	6-0	185	31	California	.293	.355	270	32	79	17	0	1	30	2									
Valera, Julio	R-R	6-2	215	23	AAA	10-10	3.83	26	0	176	152	70	117	234	Howell, Pat	S-R	5-11	155	23	A-AA	.252	.310	520	79	131	13	3	1	36	64									
					New York	0-0	0.00	2	0	2	1	4	3	143	Johnson, Howard	S-R	5-10	195	31	New York	.259	.342	564	108	146	34	4	38	117	30									
Vasquez, Julian	R-R	6-3	165	23	A	3-2	0.28	56	25	64	35	39	56	163																									
Vitko, Joe	R-R	6-8	210	22	A	11-8	2.24	22	0	140	102	39	105	203																									
Whitehurst, Wally	R-R	6-3	195	27	New York	7-12	4.19	36	1	133	142	25	87	274																									
Young, Anthony	R-R	6-2	200	26	AAA	7-9	3.73	25	0	164	172	67	93	277																									
					New York	2-5	3.10	10	0	49	48	12	20	257																									
CATCHERS														Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB																
Fordyce, Brook	R-R	6-1	185	21	A	.239	.305	406	42	97	19	3	7	55	4																								
Hundley, Todd	S-R	5-11	185	22	AAA	.273	.344	454	62	124	24	4	14	66	1																								
					New York	.133	.221	60	5	8	0	1	1	7	0																								
Coaches — Mike Cabbage; Barry Foote; Dave LaRoche; Tom McCraw; Mel Stottlemyre																																							

Coaches — Mike Cubbage; Barry Foote; Dave LaRoche; Tom McCraw; Mel Stottlemyre

CHICAGO CUBS

1991 RECORD: 77-83 MANAGER: JIM LEFEBVRE STADIUM: WRIGLEY FIELD (38,710)

5-YEAR SCAN



Images die hard, which is one reason why the Cubs still have a rabid national following. The Cubs are viewed as lovable losers who play in a hallowed baseball shrine and are bewitched by a star-crossed destiny that never will change.

The pseudo-intellectuals and misty-eyed romantics who wax poetic about their Cubbies should open their eyes. The reality is that the Cubs have become a franchise every bit as ruthless as the corporation that owns the team. They have become panic buyers, a well-heeled franchise that tries to spend its way out of trouble, and when that doesn't work, chops heads.

When the Cubs drifted to a third-place finish last season, how did the corporate bean counters react? Did they realize that injuries decimated the pitching staff, that 1991 free-agent acquisitions Danny Jackson and Dave Smith, not to mention Mike Harkey and Rick Sutcliffe, all fell lame? Did they notice that the catching was wiped out by injuries to Damon Berryhill and Joe Girardi, or that Mark Grace suddenly became Gerald Perry?

Naw. First, the geniuses fired Don Zimmer as manager. When that didn't work, they fired his successor, Jim Essian. Then they kicked president Don Grenesko upstairs, away from baseball, because Essian was his idea. Then, after telling one and all they were searching for a president and not a general manager, they hired Larry Himes as GM and shoved aside Jim Frey, who merely played a large role in the only two Cubs titles since 1945. Then their choice as manager was Jim Lefebvre, who had one winning season as Mariners manager.

Finally, showing they aren't afraid of a dare, the Cubs made their major offseason free-agent move by granting a \$12 million contract to Mike Morgan, who has the worst winning percentage of any active pitcher. Morgan at least is durable. If he stays healthy, along with the rest of the pitchers, the Cubs could contend — in spite of their corporate brains.

PITCHING They had the highest ERA and fewest shutouts in the league. They allowed the most hits and the highest opponents' batting average. They got a total of 36 starts from Mike Harkey, Danny Jackson and Rick Sutcliffe. Only Greg Maddux (15-11) had double-figure victories. Dave Smith didn't win a game, and didn't have a save after July. Are there any lingering doubts that maybe, just maybe, the 1991 Cubs were betrayed by their pitching staff?

STARTING PITCHING If nothing else, the Cubs have an ace, a legitimate No. 1 starter. There are better pitchers than Greg Maddux, but none more consistent and durable. He has 67 victories the past four seasons — more than any other National League pitcher. He worked a league-leading 263 innings last year, and hasn't pitched fewer than 237 since becoming a full-time member of the rotation in 1988.

Yet, for someone who has won at least 15 games each of the past four seasons, Maddux is oddly streaky. He won only six games in the first half last year, and his ERA for his first 20 starts was more than a run higher (3.88) than for his final 17 starts (2.79). One reason for the disparities is Maddux's stubborn insistence on throwing a curve, even though it always has been his fourth-best pitch. By the end of last season, pitching coach Billy Connors had convinced Maddux to just show the curve occasionally and rely on his heavy, sinking fastball, good slider, and a circle change-up that gets better every year.

Maddux annually is among the league leaders in fewest walks per nine innings, and helps himself in other areas, too. He is perhaps the best fielding pitcher in baseball and among the top hitting pitchers.

After Maddux, the Cubs did not have a starter in 1991 who won more than six games and only two others who worked a complete game. One reason that should change for the better is Mike Morgan. Guys with 67-104 career records are called saviors about as often as Madonna is called demure. But Morgan is not a typical 67-104 pitcher. He's coming off a year in which he won a career-high 14 games en route to his first winning record. His 2.78 ERA was among the league's best, and opponents batted only .226 against him. It was the third straight solid season for Morgan, who uses three different fastballs, including a split-finger pitch that serves as a change-up, and superb control to get the job done.

But the biggest reason the Cubs were so excited about signing Morgan is his durability. He never has been on the disabled list and doesn't even ice his arm after starts. He's pitched more than 200 innings each of the past two seasons. That sort of dependability will make you as popular as Harry Caray in Wrig-

ley Field, where there has been more scar tissue than ivy recently.

Questions about with the rest of the rotation. Stop if you've heard this before, but the Cubs hope Danny Jackson will be healthy and pitch like he did in 1988, when he might have been the best pitcher in baseball. Jackson has made only 55 starts and won but 13 games the past three years because of injuries to (are you ready?) a shoulder, toe, wrist, forearm, shoulder again, stomach muscle and groin. Yes, he has one of the dynamic sliders in the game and a fastball which he can throw in the low 90s — *when he's healthy*.

One spot should belong to righthander Frank Castillo, who made 18 starts last season after being promoted from the minors in late June. Castillo is a sinker/slider pitcher who paints the corners well enough that he worked four complete games and went into the ninth inning three other times. Hiding the ball well in his three-quarters delivery, he is tough on righthanders, who barely nicked him (.197) last year.

Who fills out the rotation is anyone's guess. It could be Shawn Boskie, although his fastball and sharp curve haven't looked the same since he had elbow surgery in August 1990. It could be Les Lancaster, who was 5-3 as a starter in 1991 and went at least seven innings in five of his 11 starts — Clemens-esque by Cubs standards. It could be Mike Harkey, whose 1991 season was wiped out by shoulder problems, further dimming expectations that he could be the next Bob Gibson.

It could be lefthander Lance Dickson, the Cubs' top draft pick in 1990 who has a knee-buckling curve, but did not progress as hoped last season. It could be Turk Wendell, a minor league legend acquired from Atlanta. Wendell's claim to fame is rather eccentric behavior such as not wearing socks under his baseball stirrups, refusing to catch a ball if thrown by an umpire, waving frequently to his outfielders, and brushing his teeth between every inning. He also comes advertised as having command of four pitches.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

RELIEF PITCHING Though Dave Smith managed 17 saves, last season was by far his worst since becoming a full-time closer in the mid-1980s. Even before knee surgery in July all but ended his season, Smith was shaky.

The tone for the Cubs season might have been set during a cold April weekend in Pittsburgh, when Smith blew two saves. On Friday, he wasted Andre Dawson's pinch-hit grand slam that had given the Cubs a 4-3 lead in the ninth. On Sunday, he gave up a game-tying run in the ninth. The Cubs scored five in the 11th, only to have Pittsburgh come back with six in the bottom of the inning, to take three of four games in the series.



What ML catcher was an American spy during WWII?
Moe Berg
 When did Yankee Stadium open?
April 18, 1923
 On March 15, 1978, the Giants traded 7 players
 and \$390,000 for who?
Vida Blue



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BASEBALL?

Who said "The Giants is dead. They'll never
 bother us again"?
Charley Dressen
 What Hall of Fame pitcher said "I'd rather be
 lucky than good"?
Lefty Gomez



How many World Series did the Brooklyn Dodgers win?
One (1955)
 Who hid a bird under his cap and let it out when he came
 to bat?
Casey Stengel
 Name the only man enshrined in the Baseball & Football
 Halls of Fame.
Cal Hubbard



This year's series of Classic Major League Baseball® Board Games are sure to be a hit. Series 1 is now available and Series 2 is coming out later this year. Both include 99 picture trivia cards. Don't miss the 1992 Collector's Edition, with 200 player trivia cards, to be released soon!

Smith's knee is sound, so the Cubs again will trust his 37-year-old right arm. He hasn't had overpowering velocity in years, but has been successful because of a curve and forkball — and the ability to scuff a baseball and make it dance. As one NL manager said, "The Cubs will have themselves a closer as long as Smith gets healthy and starts cheating again."

Smith will receive help in the closer's role from Paul Assenmacher, who has become one of the most solid lefthanded relievers in the game. Amazingly durable, Assenmacher has made 149 appearances and pitched more than 200 innings in relief the past two years. Once strictly a setup man, he had 15 saves last season. Assenmacher's curve eats up lefthanders, who hit .179 against him in 1991. Righthanders, though, took him deep nine times. His curve is so good that he struck out 117 batters in 103 innings. Only Rob Dibble, whose fastball is at least 10 mph faster, had more strikeouts among NL relievers.

Lefty Chuck McElroy, obtained from Philadelphia with Bob Scanlan for Mitch Williams last spring, proved to be an able setup man. The Mars Blackmon look-alike had a 1.95 ERA in 71 appearances and 101 innings in his rookie season. McElroy has surprising velocity, and his breaking ball and funky delivery afford him a decided edge against lefties, who batted only .172 against him.

Shawon Dunston

Barring another plague of injuries in the rotation, Les Lancaster likely will be back in middle and long roles. Another workhorse, he made 64 appearances, 53 in relief, last season. His ERA working out of the bullpen was nearly two runs lower than as a starter. Lancaster can be tough with his assortment of sinking fastballs and hard sliders, but he's quick to lose aggressiveness and start nibbling.

Scanlan, a 6-7 beanpole, is effective when working low with his sinker/slider mix, but batting-practice meat when his pitches are up. Other candidates include lefthander Yorkis Perez and righthander Heathcliff Slocumb, who has a 90-mph slider but doesn't always know where it's going. His ERA in the second half last season was nearly two runs higher than it was in the first half.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

CATCHING Just two years ago, this seemed like a position that would be handled capably for a decade by Damon Berryhill and Joe Girardi. But Berryhill has been traded to Atlanta, and Girardi missed nearly four months last season because of a back problem.

The latest catcher of the future is Rick Wilkins, who showed flashes of lefthanded power in his 86-game audition last year. He also was overmatched frequently by hard stuff inside and fooled by breaking stuff away. Scouts like

Wilkins' arm (he stopped 25 of 71 runners trying to steal) and say he has the strength and agility to settle in as a top-notch receiver.

If he becomes an average hitter, Wilkins could jolt 20 homers annually, maybe more, considering he's at the Friendly Confines half the time.

If healthy, Girardi will share the catching load. With his quick, accurate arm, he is as good as any catcher in the league at controlling a running game. Girardi is a solid contact hitter, especially against lefties, whom he battered at a .326 clip in 1990.

Hector Villanueva hit 13 homers in 192 at-bats, so he will stick as a righthanded pinch-

hitter. Listed as a catcher, the tubby Villanueva is a DH in the wrong league. He's a squatting statue behind the plate and has a below-average arm.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

INFIELD We will skip the potential problems for a moment and go to the obvious asset. Is there any bigger asset in baseball than Ryne Sandberg? He's 67 homers away (about two seasons' worth) from being the all-time leader among second basemen. With 100 RBIs in 1991, he became

the first second baseman in 42 years with 100 or more in back-to-back seasons. He has scored more than 100 runs in three consecutive seasons. He has stolen 20 or more bases in nine of the past 10 years. And just when you think he might be slowing down in the field, Sandberg committed a career-low four errors last season. He has not made a throwing error in 232 games, and invariably is in the right place at the right time.

One of the game's bigger risks is to try to get a fastball inside on Sandberg without him depositing it onto Waveland Avenue. Always looking to pull the ball, he can be pitched away, but the margin for error is slim. Is there anything wrong with this icon? Well, Sandberg has a weird career pattern of being almost nonexistent in the season's first month, which hardly helps the Cubs' chances of getting off to a good start. His reticence about batting third also is perplexing. And people have noticed he is loath to dive for balls. But if the Cubs don't move quickly, Sandberg could be — gasp! — a free agent after this season.

The Cubs avoided free-agent unpleasantries with Shawon Dunston by signing him late last season. For all Dunston's faults, the Cubs concluded they would be hard-pressed to find a shortstop as good. He languished in the low .230s through the first half last season, but finished with a .300 flourish in his final 207 at-bats. He had 12 homers, second-best total of his career, but one of his worst RBI years (50).

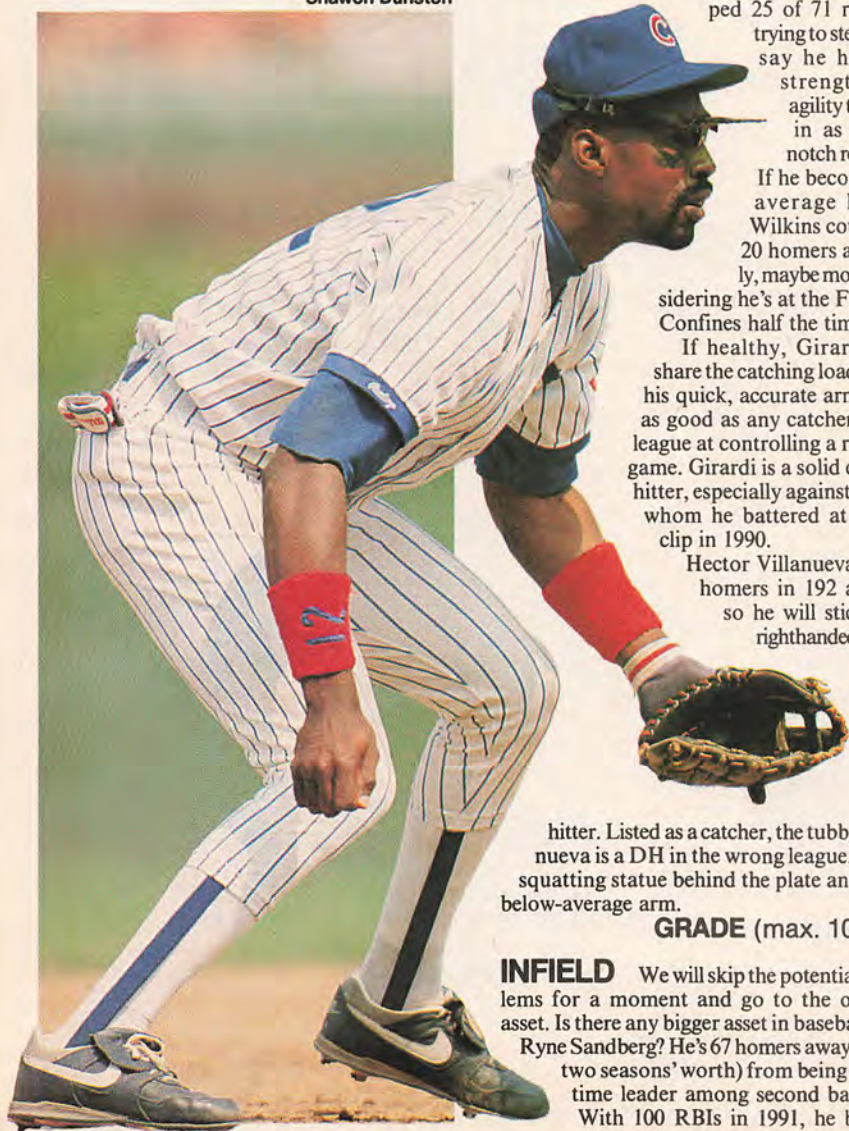
Long a first-ball hacker, Dunston seems to be gaining some discipline. He struck out a career-low 64 times, and while 23 walks doesn't sound like much, it was the second-highest total of his career. Dunston always has trusted his marvelous arm to bail him out on defense, but he's starting to anticipate more and play balls before they can play him. He's 29, and scouts have said Dunston's best years might come in his 30s, once he needs to rely on more than natural athletic ability.

The upbeat feeling about Dunston does not go for Mark Grace. Fast becoming an enigma, Grace batted a career-low .273 in 1991. More alarming was his diminishing power — 8 homers, 28 doubles, 58 RBIs. Those hardly are numbers expected of someone once compared to Will Clark. Grace probably never will be a true power hitter, but the only excuse for him going deep but twice in his final 307 at-bats is that he has become a slap hitter. If he's to be of value at an infield corner, Grace must start looking for pitches to pull and account better with runners in scoring position (.229) than he did in '91.

Grace is not without pluses. He hangs in against southpaws as doggedly as any lefty swinger in the league. And he is an accomplished fielder with superb hands. As disappointing as Grace was to the Cubs last season, they know he's too young to be on the downswing of his career.

Third base? The Cubs likely will start with ageless Luis Salazar, who gets all he can from his ability, but ideally should be a utility player. He hit a career-high 14 homers in 1991, but had only 38 RBIs. Avoid giving Salazar a pitch to pull, and he will get himself out. A competent fielder with a strong arm, he can fill in at several positions.

Gary Scott won third base last spring, but was last seen slipping off to Iowa after batting .165 in 31 games. He may yet surface as a .270, 15-homer type and provide the Cubs' best glove at third since Ron Santo, but probably isn't ready.



The top reserve is Jose Vizcaino, smooth at second, third and short, but a switch-hitter who barely gets the ball out of the infield (5 extra-base hits, 10 RBIs in 145 at-bats last season).

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

OUTFIELD The Cubs would be hard-pressed to come up with a reason why they shouldn't have taken on George Bell as a free agent. He had a solid first season in the NL and wasn't the disaster in left field everyone seemed to expect. Bell has his share of trouble going back on balls, but didn't show any allergic reaction to the ivy on the Wrigley wall, and was a more accurate thrower than advertised.

One concern was Bell's sluggish second half, when he hit only nine homers and suffered through a 0-for-39 swoon. Once NL pitchers found that Bell did not yield to hard stuff inside, they began changing speeds and feeding him a steady diet of breaking stuff away. He was either slow to adjust or having trouble caring about anything less than the pennant races he had grown accustomed to in Toronto. If the Cubs are in one this season, expect Bell to be close to his eight-year averages of 28 homers and 101 RBIs.

Until further notice, count on similar reliability from rightfielder Andre Dawson. Two springs ago, some crack Chicago journalists reported that Dawson was retiring. He's since hit 58 home runs and driven in 204 runs. Twenty-two of Dawson's 31 bombs last year came at Wrigley, where he batted 42 points better than on the road. Though his knees creak, he played in 149 games.

The Cubs need to preserve Dawson with an occasional day off, preferably on artificial turf and against a tough righthander. But the lineup has a big hole when he's missing, as does



Andre Dawson

the outfield, where his arm remains one of the most respected in the league. Pitchers can get Dawson out on a combination of high fastballs and sliders away, but they'd best stay off the plate or he'll have his way.

Center field remains a soft spot. Jerome Walton's batting average has dropped 74 points since he was rookie of the year in 1989. He's too heavy at times, and constantly tries to pull the ball rather than concentrate on contact and use his speed. Walton's on-base percentage last season was .275, negating his ability as a basestealer. Defensively, he breaks well to the ball and covers the gaps, easing the burden on Bell and Dawson.

Alternatives? Journeyman Chico Walker had 34 RBIs and stole 13 bases. Ced Landrum is a base-stealing specialist (27 in 32 attempts), but little else. Dwight Smith is still around as a pinch-hitter and spot starter. And there is Doug Dascenzo, the ace lefthanded reliever (four shutout innings in three appearances) who hit like one at times, going 1 for 40 to open the second half.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

MANAGEMENT Jim Lefebvre has not been in the National League since 1982, but can get a refresher course from his bench coach, Chuck Cottier, the Cubs third-base coach the past four seasons. Lefebvre's sin in Seattle was daring to ask for a contending team that the owner couldn't afford and the general manager wasn't ingenious enough to provide. Still, Seattle improved in each of Lefebvre's three seasons.

One thing is certain: Lefebvre won't have to send a scouting party out to the golf courses when he wants to consult with his general manager. Larry Himes is an around-the-clock GM. He put the White Sox back on track in four years, only to be fired for getting more credit than the owner. Same goes for Himes' top aide, Syd Thrift, the man most responsible for reviving the Pirates. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

T.Q.35.0

PITCHERS														INFELDERS																				
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB						
Asenmacher, Paul	L-L	6-3	200	31	Chicago	7-8	3.24	75	15	103	85	31	117	223	Arias, Alex	R-R	6-3	185	24	AA	.275	.340	488	69	134	26	0	4	47	23				
Boskie, Shawn	R-R	6-3	205	25	AAA	2-2	3.57	7	0	45	43	11	29	257	Castellano, Pedro	R-R	6-1	175	22	AAA-AA	.308	.399	478	61	147	25	3	10	89	11				
					Chicago	4-9	5.23	28	0	129	150	52	62	294	Dunston, Shawn	R-R	6-1	175	29	Chicago	.260	.292	492	59	128	22	7	12	50	21				
Bullinger, Jim	R-R	6-2	185	26	AAA-AA	12-13	4.43	28	0	189	179	84	158	256	Grace, Mark	L-L	6-2	190	27	Chicago	.273	.346	619	87	169	28	5	8	58	3				
Castillo, Frank	R-R	6-1	180	23	AAA	3-1	2.52	4	0	25	20	7	20	225	Paulino, Elvin	L-R	6-1	190	24	AA	.257	.346	460	67	118	27	1	24	81	8				
					Chicago	6-7	4.35	18	0	112	107	33	73	252	Salazar, Luis	R-R	5-10	190	35	Chicago	.258	.292	333	34	86	14	1	14	38	0				
Dickson, Lance	R-L	6-1	185	22	AAA	4-4	3.11	18	0	101	85	57	101	237	Sanchez, Rey	R-R	5-9	165	24	AAA	.290	.356	417	60	121	16	5	2	46	13				
Harkey, Mike	R-R	6-5	220	25	Chicago	0-2	5.30	4	0	19	21	6	15	273					Chicago	.261	.370	23	1	6	0	0	0	2	0					
Jackson, Danny	R-L	6-0	205	30	AAA	0-0	1.80	1	0	5	2	2	4	118	Sandberg, Ryne	R-R	6-2	185	32	Chicago	.291	.379	585	104	170	32	2	26	100	22				
					Chicago	1-5	6.75	17	0	71	89	48	31	309	Scott, Gary	R-R	6-0	175	23	AAA	.208	.286	231	21	48	10	2	3	34	0				
Lancaster, Les	R-R	6-2	200	29	Chicago	9-7	3.52	64	3	156	150	49	102	256					Chicago	.165	.305	79	8	13	3	0	1	5	0					
Maddux, Greg	R-R	6-0	175	25	Chicago	15-11	3.35	37	0	263	232	66	196	237	Strange, Doug	S-R	6-2	170	27	AAA	.293	.352	509	76	149	35	5	8	56	10				
McElroy, Chuck	L-L	6-0	180	24	Chicago	6-2	1.95	71	3	101	73	57	92	210					Chicago	.444	.455	9	0	4	1	0	0	1	1					
Morgan, Mike	R-R	6-2	222	32	Los Angeles	14-10	2.78	34	1	236	197	61	140	226	Vizcaino, Jose	S-R	6-1	180	24	Chicago	.262	.283	145	7	38	5	0	0	10	2				
Perez, Yorlvis	L-L	6-0	180	24	AAA	12-3	3.79	36	1	107	99	53	102	251					OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
					Chicago	1-0	2.08	3	0	4	2	2	3	167	Bel, George	R-R	6-1	202	32	Chicago	.285	.323	558	63	159	27	0	25	86	2				
Robinson, Jeff D.	R-R	6-4	200	31	California	0-3	5.37	39	3	57	56	29	57	259	Dascenzo, Doug	S-L	5-8	160	27	Chicago	.255	.327	239	40	61	11	0	1	18	14				
Scanlan, Bob	R-R	6-7	215	25	AAA	2-0	2.95	4	0	18	14	10	15	209	Dawson, Andre	R-R	6-3	197	37	Chicago	.272	.302	563	69	153	21	4	31	104	4				
					Chicago	7-8	3.89	40	1	111	114	40	44	269	Landrum, Ced	L-R	5-8	170	28	AAA	.336	.360	131	14	44	8	2	1	11	13				
Slocumb, Heathcliff	R-R	6-3	210	25	AAA	1-0	4.05	12	1	13	10	6	9	196					Chicago	.233	.313	86	28	20	2	1	0	6	27					
Smith, Dave	R-R	6-1	195	37	Chicago	2-1	3.45	52	1	63	53	30	34	231	May, Derrick	L-R	6-4	205	23	AAA	.297	.342	310	47	92	18	4	3	49	7				
Wendell, Turk	S-R	6-2	175	24	AA-AAA	0-6	6.00	35	17	33	39	19	16	302					Chicago	.227	.280	22	4	5	2	0	1	3	0					
					Chicago	11-5	2.68	28	1	169	130	51	122	238	Smith, Dwight	L-R	5-11	175	28	Chicago	.228	.279	167	16	38	7	2	3	21	2				
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Walker, Chico	S-R	5-9	185	33	Chicago	.257	.315	374	51	96	10	1	6	34	13			
Girardi, Joe	R-R	5-11	195	27	AAA	.222	.300	36	3	8	1	0	0	4	2	Walton, Jerome	R-R	6-1	175	26	Chicago	.219	.275	270	42	59	13	1	5	17	7			
					Chicago	.191	.283	47	3	9	2	0	0	6	0																			
Villanueva, Hector	R-R	6-1	220	27	AAA	.360	.370	25	2	9	3	0	2	9	0																			
					Chicago	.276	.346	192	23	53	10	1	13	32	0																			
Wilkins, Rick	L-R	6-2	210	24	AAA	.271	.339	107	12	29	3	1	5	14	1																			
					Chicago	.222	.307	203	21	45	9	0	6	22	3																			

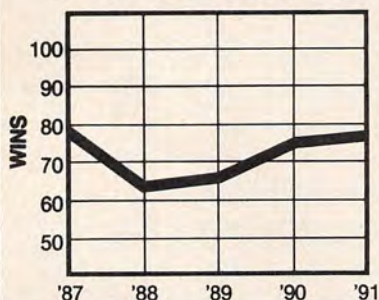
Coaches — Billy Connors; Chuck Cottier; Sammy Ellis; Jose Martinez; Tom Trebelhorn

Coaches — Billy Connors; Chuck Cottier; Sammy Ellis; Jose Martinez; Tom Trebelhorn

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

1991 RECORD: 78-84 MANAGER: JIM FREGOSI STADIUM: VETERANS (62,382)

5-YEAR SCAN



The jury is still out on whether the Phillies are legitimate contenders. And there might be some question about exactly how much progress has been made by a franchise that has been above .500 once in the past seven seasons.

But at least no one is accusing the Phillies of being dull. Take the 1991 season. Their spring training was shrouded by Lenny Dykstra's involvement with poker games in Mississippi that brought him a reprimand from the commissioner. The day before the season opened, they acquired Mitch Williams. Thirteen games into the season, they fired Nick Leyva as manager and replaced him with Jim Fregosi. A month into the season, Dykstra drove his Mercedes into a tree, sidelining himself and catcher Darren Daulton.

In the Phillies' 40th game, Tommy Greene pitched the club's second no-hitter in as many years. They had an ugly brawl with the Braves on the night Atlanta honored Dale Murphy. They tied a club record by winning 13 straight games. Williams won eight games in August. Dykstra squished himself against the Riverfront Stadium fence, suffering a broken collarbone and ending his season. Fourteen different players spent time on the disabled list, a club record. And on the final day of the season, the Phillies went down swinging 19 times against Dave Cone of the Mets.

Now that's entertainment. But whether it means the Phils can contend, who knows? After losing out in the Bobby Bonilla Sweepstakes, they did little in the offseason to improve a 78-84 club.

PITCHING The good news last season was that the staff ERA (3.86) was below 4.00 for the first time since 1986, and the .246 opponents' batting average, 988 strikeouts, 16 complete games and 11 shutouts were among the league's best. For the first time in five years, four pitchers won 10 or more games. All the above earned pitching coach Johnny Podres some richly deserved plaudits. How-

ever, the staff issued more than 600 walks for the fourth straight season, and led the NL in wild pitches for the third year in a row. Control is not exactly the mantra chanted by this wild bunch.

STARTING PITCHING This is an area that just a short time ago was about as promising as the real-estate market in downtown Baghdad, a place infested by names like Floyd Youmans, Dave LaPoint and Steve Ontiveros. But by the end of 1991, the Phillies' biggest strength, amazing as it seems, might have been the rotation.

For one thing, they found a true ace for the first time since Steve Carlton took his buckets of rice and witty repartee out of town. There were few NL starters more consistent or durable than lefthander Terry Mulholland. He won 16 games, pitched eight complete games and worked 232 innings, most by a Phillies pitcher in five years. He had three shutouts and walked only 1.9 batters per nine innings, the third-best control ratio in the league.

Mulholland's career might have turned around because of an injury. Midway through the 1990 season, he was disabled because of a tired arm. He spent the time working on the mechanics of his delivery and undergoing the rigors inflicted by Gus Hoefling, Carlton's fabled conditioning guru. The results have been dramatic. Mulholland picked up 3 to 4 mph on his sinking fastball, and his slider acquired a much tighter spin and quicker break. Since returning to the rotation in August 1990, he has averaged more than seven innings a start.

Revelation No. 2 was righthander Tommy Greene. Once considered the best pitching prospect in a Braves organization that since has delivered gentlemen named Glavine and Avery, Greene's stock fell so far that he was a throw-in to the Phillies in their August 1990 trade for Dale Murphy. Though a lot of Phillies brass smugly pat themselves on the back for stealing Greene, it should be pointed out that he left spring training last year as a long reliever. He got a chance in the rotation because of injuries and the inefficiency of others.

In his second start, Greene threw a no-hitter, seven walks notwithstanding. He went on to compile 29 consecutive scoreless innings, and had a 4-0 record and 0.29 ERA for May. He finished with 13 victories and 154 strikeouts. Greene brings some serious heat, a fastball in the low 90s, and has gained better control of his sharp-breaking curve. Plus, Johnny Podres is teaching Greene a circle change, which makes the hard stuff look all the better. Greene also is an offensive weapon, perhaps the best hitting pitcher in the league.



Terry Mulholland

Another reason the rotation is becoming formidable is a frightening character named Jose DeJesus. He walked 128 batters in 182 innings last season, enduring some spells when no one, including himself, knew where his 95-mph fastball and 89-mph curve were headed. He allowed 13.8 runners per nine innings, most in the NL. But if DeJesus doesn't beat himself, chances are that opponents aren't going to do it. They hit .224 against him. Aided by Podres' tutelage, the 6-5 righthander gained better command of his dominant stuff as the season progressed and began mixing in an occasional change-up to keep hitters off-balance.

Three givens in the rotation is three more than the Phillies had at this time a year ago. Who ends up filling the other two spots is pure conjecture. There is lefthander Kyle Abbott, part of the Angels' payment for Von Hayes. Abbott was 14-10 in Triple-A last season, with 120 strikeouts and 46 walks. He was voted the Pacific Coast League's top pitching prospect by the league's managers. Phillies scouts think that if Podres can teach Abbott a change-up to go with his breaking stuff and control, the club might have themselves a winner.

Lefthander Pat Combs' second season was a washout, after he showed so much promise as a 1990 rookie. He had horrendous control problems, once opening a start with a walk, walk, wild pitch, wild pitch, walk, wild pitch, walk, shower. He finished with 43 walks and seven wild pitches in 64 innings, later saying that his trouble was "I'm too smart for this game." Combs ended up disabled, in the minors, and finally on the operating table for removal of bone chips in his elbow.

Another possibility is Ken Howell, who was a power-balling righthander and the ace of the staff before missing last season because of shoulder problems.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

RELIEF PITCHING Sometimes, you want to close your eyes and not watch. As Mitch Williams himself once described his style of relieving: "I pitch like my hair is on fire." It's not a pretty sight when Williams walks the potential tying and winning runs and goes to three balls on the next guy.

But the high-wire closer almost was as effective last season as he is exciting. He had 30 saves and a career-high 12 victories. His 2.34 ERA was among the best in the majors. Opponents batted .182 against him, .113 with runners in scoring position. He had a strikeout for virtually every inning pitched. He was the main reason that August was the Phillies' best month in eight years. Williams posted eight wins in the month — a major league record for relievers — going 8-1 with five saves and a 1.21 ERA. Though he never may duplicate last year's numbers, Williams should continue to thrive in the close-out business if he finds the strike zone enough with his deceptive fastball and occasional hard slider. His outstanding pickoff move bails him out of a lot of grief.

Bridging the gap between the starters and Williams was a problem last season. Too often Jim Fregosi had to go to his closer in the eighth inning. The acquisition of righthander Barry Jones gives Fregosi a dependable setup man who can pitch often (142 appearances the past two seasons). Jones eases the burden on Williams. Miscast as a closer for much of 1991

in Montreal, Jones is at his best when he gets ahead of hitters with his slider and puts them away with his heavy sinker.

From the left side, the Phillies have Wally Ritchie and Steve Searcy. Ritchie has pedestrian stuff, but works with the audacity of a 90-mph flamethrower. He hides the ball well from lefties, limiting them to a .161 average last season. Searcy could be useful if he listens to Fregosi and challenges hitters instead of nibbling.

Righthander Mike Hartley limited opponents to a .219 average in 18 appearances last summer after being acquired from the Dodgers. His money pitch is a forkball, which he has to get over against lefthanded hitters. Another possibility is Darrin Chapin, a slider/forkball specialist obtained from the Yankees for Charlie Hayes.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

CATCHING There was much gnashing of teeth around baseball when the Phillies gave Darren Daulton a three-year, \$6.75 million contract for putting together a big second half in the 1990 season. But it was Daulton whose teeth got gnashed in 1991. He spent a week or so clearing cobwebs from his head after being knocked senseless by the Cardinals' Ray Lankford in a home-plate collision. Then he missed about six weeks recovering from injuries sustained in a car wreck following John Kruk's bachelor party. Finally (mercifully?) Daulton's season ended in September when he submitted to surgery for removal of bone chips from his left knee.

Daulton finished below the dreaded Mendoza Line (.196), which produced a lot of "I told you so's" around the league. Overlooked were his 12 home runs and 42 RBIs in 285 at-bats. Daulton got into the habit of trying to pull everything last season. In 1990, he had success taking the outside pitch the opposite way. Behind the plate, Daulton shifts easily and throws with a strong arm. The staff leans heavily on him for pitch selection.

Daulton needs to stay healthy this season because his dependable caddy, Steve Lake, wasn't re-signed. The leading contenders for backup duty are offensive player Todd Pratt and defensive option Doug Lindsey.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

INFIELD John Kruk has been described as a player for the '90s — the 1890s. He plays the game with an infectious enthusiasm that carries over to the clubhouse.

Kruk had his best season in 1991 — after signing a multimillion-dollar contract. He led the Phillies in batting (.294), and posted career highs in home runs (21), RBIs (92), extra-base hits (54) and runs (84). He hit lefthanders (.297) better than righthanders (.292). He finished fourth in the NL in intentional walks (16). No regular first baseman in either league had fewer errors (2).

Kruk has hit between .291 and .313 in five of the past six seasons. He has the quickness to turn on the inside pitch, yet makes his living driving the ball to the opposite field. Defensively, Kruk and his creaky knees fare much better at first base than in the outfield.

Entering spring training, Mickey Morandini and Kim Batiste are being counted on to form the double-play combination. Second baseman Morandini has sure hands, but his range is average. So is his ability to turn the

double play. At the plate, the lefty swinger has to make better contact and keep the ball out of the air to take full advantage of his plus speed. Morandini's inability to hit lefthanders last season (.185) is a concern.

Shortstop Batiste displayed some sting in his bat (32 extra-base hits) and good wheels (18 steals) in Triple-A last season. What he didn't show was much discipline (11 walks in 462 at-bats). Although he has prototypical athletic ability for a turf shortstop, Batiste hasn't demonstrated that he can make routine plays. He's averaged more than 30 errors a season in the minors.

In the Phillies' preseason scheme, free-agent acquisition Mariano Duncan figures to be the Tony Phillips of the NL — a regular without a permanent home. Duncan, a fluid athlete, can play second (his best position), short, third and even the outfield. Offensively, he has some dynamite in the barrel, and likes lefthanded pitching (.314 last season). Duncan runs well, but doesn't get good jumps when trying to steal.

The Phillies want switch-hitting Dave Hollins to be their third baseman, especially after watching him hit .388 with 5 homers and 13 RBIs last July. A shoulder injury shortly thereafter put him on the disabled list until the final month. Hollins, who feasts on fastballs from both sides, showed patience and power in an inconclusive 151 at-bats. Although he lacks quick feet and reactions, he doesn't appear to be a liability with the glove.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

OUTFIELD No event crippled the Phillies more last season than Lenny Dykstra's car wreck. No player is more important to the club than the runt in center field. With Dykstra in the lineup, Philadelphia was 36-27. Without him, the Phillies were 42-57. Despite missing 99 games, Dykstra led the Phillies in stolen bases (24) and was fourth in runs (48). He batted .297. Eight players used in the lead-off spot in his absence batted .255.

All of which laid to rest any suspicions that Dykstra's monster 1990 season was a fluke. Amid all his travail and injuries, he was the same player last year as he was in 1990. Dykstra's work to increase his strength and enlarge his muscle mass have enabled him to cut down his swing. Going to an open stance has resulted in him hitting more line drives and fewer fly balls. Dykstra also has learned to be patient at the plate, producing the lengthy at-bats desired of a leadoff man. In the outfield, few players throw their bodies around as willingly as Dykstra and achieve similar results.

The Phillies need Dykstra's defense because young leftfielder Wes Chamberlain turns routine fly balls into adventures and lacks basic instincts. Scouts, and even some of the Phillies brass, acknowledge that Chamberlain is one of the most unsound players fundamentally in the league. Many of his teammates aren't in love with his cocky demeanor and off-field motor mouth. But if Chamberlain continues to grow as an offensive force, everyone will learn to live with his flaws.

The ball jumps off Chamberlain's bat. Described as "Alex Johnson with more power" by one scout, Chamberlain had 12 home runs and 44 RBIs in the second half last season. Like many youthful sluggers, he is vulnerable to off-speed stuff and swings through too many pitches.

Until further notice, right field belongs to

The Phillies think Ruben Amaro Jr., acquired from California in the Von Hayes trade, can stick as an extra outfielder. A switch-hitter, Amaro batted .326, scored 95 runs and stole 36 bases in Triple-A last season. His defense doesn't match his exciting offense.

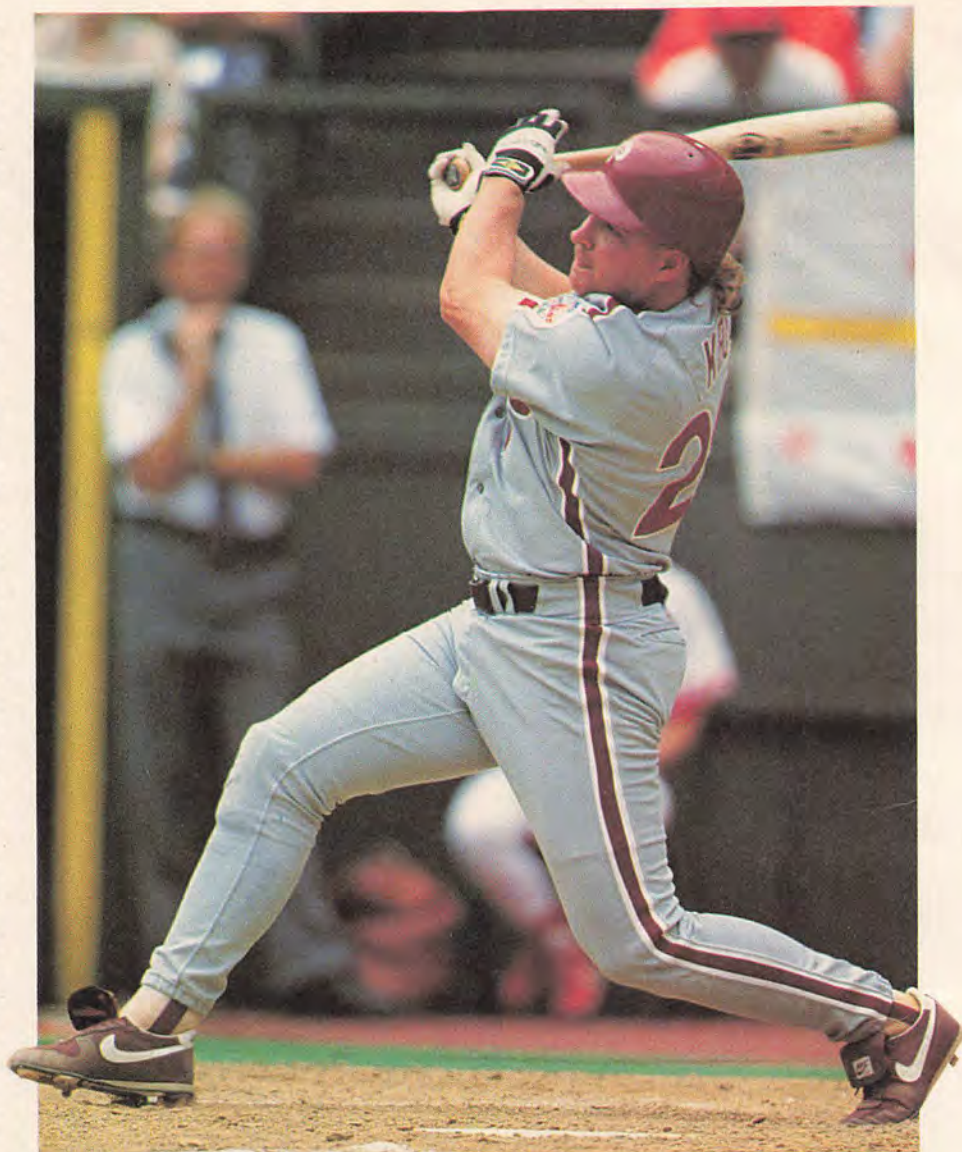
GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

MANAGEMENT

Lee Thomas has called the shots as general manager for 3½ years. He has fleeced the other side in trades for pitchers who have become the Phillies' top three starters and closer, and the entire outfield was acquired for a song. The fruits of Thomas' rebuilding effort can be seen throughout the organization. He inherited a farm system that had become one of the worst in baseball. In 1991 Phillies minor league teams collectively had a winning record for the first time since 1980. Scouts say the Phils have prospects at every level.

Manager Jim Fregosi, a close friend of Thomas, is in sync with everything the club is trying to do. Before replacing blunt-talking Nick Leyva last season, Fregosi had spent two years troubleshooting for Thomas in Philadelphia's minor league system. Consequently, he is familiar with the prospects. Fregosi has a knack with pitchers, and has stabilized a clubhouse that was becoming sullen under Leyva.

All that said, this is a crucial season for Thomas and Fregosi. The Phillies haven't finished above .500 since 1986, and those loveable hoagie-eating masses in Philadelphia are a little sick of this rebuilding stuff. It's time to start winning, and if these fans could boo Santa Claus, Mike Schmidt and Dale Murphy,



John Kruk

you know darn well they'll boo the faces off Thomas and Fregosi if things don't continue to improve. **GRADE** (max. 10): **6.0**

T.Q.[®]34.5

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Abbott, Kyle	L-L	6-4	200	24	AAA California	14-10 3.99	57	0	180	173	46	120	258		Lindsey, Doug	R-R	6-2	200	24	AA Philadelphia	.259	.306	313	26	81	13	0	1	34	1
Ashby, Andy	R-R	6-5	180	24	AAA Philadelphia	11-11 3.46	26	0	161	144	60	113	235		Pratt, Todd	R-R	6-3	195	25	AAA	.292	.343	219	27	64	16	0	11	41	0
Bortland, Toby	R-R	6-6	180	22	AA	8-3	2.70	59	24	77	65	56	72	232	INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL <td>Age</td> <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Brantley, Cliff	R-R	6-1	190	23	AA-AAA Philadelphia	6-7	2.69	19	0	117	94	50	79	224	Backman, Wally	S-R	5-9	168	32	Philadelphia	.243	.344	185	20	45	12	0	0	15	3
Chapin, Darrin	R-R	6-0	170	26	AAA New York (AL)	2-2	3.41	6	0	32	26	19	25	228	Batiste, Kim	R-R	6-0	175	24	AAA Philadelphia	.292	.312	462	54	135	25	6	1	41	18
Combs, Pat	L-L	6-4	207	25	AAA Philadelphia	10-3	1.95	55	12	78	54	40	69	194	Duncan, Mariano	R-R	6-0	185	29	Cincinnati	.258	.288	333	46	86	7	4	12	40	5
Cox, Danny	R-R	6-4	225	32	Philadelphia	0-1	5.06	3	0	5	3	6	5	158	Hollins, Dave	S-R	6-1	207	25	AAA Philadelphia	.266	.388	229	37	61	11	6	8	35	4
DeJesus, Jose	R-R	6-5	213	27	Philadelphia	2-2	6.67	6	0	27	39	16	14	351	Jordan, Ricky	R-R	6-3	209	26	Philadelphia	.272	.304	301	38	82	21	3	9	49	0
Greene, Tommy	R-R	6-5	227	25	Philadelphia	10-9	3.42	31	1	182	147	128	118	224	Kruk, John	L-L	5-10	200	31	Philadelphia	.294	.367	538	84	158	27	6	21	92	7
Grimsey, Jason	R-R	6-3	182	24	AAA Philadelphia	13-7	3.38	36	0	208	177	66	154	230	Morandini, Mickey	L-R	5-11	167	25	AAA Philadelphia	.261	.327	46	7	12	4	0	1	9	2
Hartley, Mike	R-R	6-1	197	30	Los Angeles	2-3	4.35	9	0	52	48	37	43	254	Schu, Rick	R-R	6-0	185	30	AAA Philadelphia	.321	.420	355	69	114	30	5	14	57	7
Howell, Ken	R-R	6-3	237	31	AAA	1-7	4.87	12	0	61	54	41	42	242	Sveum, Dale	S-R	6-3	185	28	Milwaukee	.091	.125	22	1	2	0	0	0	2	0
Jones, Barry	R-R	6-4	225	29	Montreal	2-0	4.42	40	1	57	53	37	44	245	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL <td>Age</td> <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Muholland, Terry	R-L	6-3	206	29	Philadelphia	4-9	5.35	77	13	69	76	33	46	246	Amaro Jr., Ruben	S-R	5-10	170	27	AAA California	.326	.411	472	95	154	42	6	3	42	36
Ritchie, Wally	L-L	6-2	180	26	AAA Philadelphia	16-13	3.61	34	0	232	231	49	142	260	Castillo, Braulio	R-R	6-0	180	23	AA-AAA Philadelphia	.217	.308	23	0	5	1	0	0	2	0
Searcy, Steve	L-L	6-1	195	27	Detroit	1-2	2.50	39	0	50	44	17	26	234	Chamberlain, Wes	R-R	6-2	210	25	AAA Philadelphia	.257	.288	144	12	37	7	2	2	20	7
Williams, Mitch	L-L	6-4	205	27	Philadelphia	1-2	8.41	16	0	41	52	30	32	313	Dykstra, Lenny	L-L	5-10	186	29	Philadelphia	.240	.300	383	51	92	16	3	13	50	9
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	2-1	4.15	18	0	30	29	14	21	252	Lindeman, Jim	R-R	6-1	200	30	AAA Philadelphia	.297	.391	246	48	73	13	5	3	12	24
Dauton, Darren	L-R	6-2	200	24	AA-AAA Philadelphia	12-5	2.34	69	30	88	56	62	84	182						AAA Philadelphia	.275	.356	40	7	11	1	1	2	7	0
	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					Philadelphia	.337	.413	95	13	32	5	0	0	12	0
	L-R	6-2	200	24	AA-AAA Philadelphia	.230	.257	13	1	3	0	0	1	1	0					AA-AAA	.281	.342	434	54	122	26	3	9	65	14
	R-R	6-4	196	29	Philadelphia	.196	.297	285	36	56	12	0	12	42	5					Philadelphia	.252	.309	544	66	137	33	3	18	81	1
Coaches — John Ukovich; Larry Bowa; Denis Menke; Mel Roberts; Johnny Podres; Mike Ryan															Peguerro, Julio	S-R	6-0	180	23	AAA	.273	.328	506	71	138	20	0	2	39	21

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ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

1991 RECORD: 84-78 MANAGER: JOE TORRE STADIUM: BUSCH (56,227)



Win or lose, the Cardinals have been able to count on the support of their fans. When 2.45 million people passed through the Busch Stadium gates in 1991, it marked the 10th consecutive season St. Louis has surpassed 2 million in attendance.

But there is such a thing as pushing your luck, and the perception in St. Louis is that Anheuser-Busch, parent company of the Cardinals, is on the verge of throttling the goose that laid the golden egg.

Consider the community outrage that transpired after the Cardinals finished 84-78 last season, a surprising second in the National League East. In late November and early December, management made the following moves, apparently after consulting the Saddam Hussein public relations handbook:

1) Ticket prices for 1992 were raised by a dollar.

2) After vowing to bid for Bobby Bonilla or Wally Joyner in the free-agent market, club president Fred Kuhlmann and general manager Dal Maxvill said they had changed their minds.

3) Ken Hill, one of the organization's best young arms, was traded to Montreal for first baseman Andres Galarraga, who drove in six more runs than Rafael Belliard last season.

4) After picking up shortstop Ozzie Smith's option for 1992, the club announced it had terminated negotiations with Smith on a contract extension.

Now, the Wizard is a bit of a politician, for sure. But when he went from TV station to TV station, ripping St. Louis' front office, he stoked an emotional frenzy. Cardinals fans talked about boycotting Anheuser-Busch products, and made up bumper stickers reading, "Sign Him — We Will Come."

Ownership, meanwhile, continues to tighten its belt. In 1990 the Cardinals had the seventh-highest payroll in baseball. Last year it ranked 16th. Bruce Sutter, Jack Clark, Terry Pendleton, Vince Coleman and Ken Dayley all left town via free agency, and the biggest fish

hooked by the Cardinals in all that time was pitcher Bryn Smith.

The Cardinals have a chance to contend this season, because the NL East lacks a dominant club. St. Louis has a talented young nucleus in Todd Zeile, Ray Lankford and Felix Jose, and one of the game's best managers in Joe Torre.

But the Smiths, Ozzie and Lee, must continue to produce. The Cardinals finished 14 games out of first place and 12½ out of last in 1991. Like their fans, they could go either way this summer.

PITCHING The Cardinals are moving in the outfield fences, from 383 to 375 feet in the gaps and 414 to 402 in center. The fences also will be 2½ feet shorter. Given the composition of the pitching staff, the change might benefit visitors more than the home team. The Cardinals ranked 25th among major league clubs in strikeouts (822) last season, and Ken Hill, the staff leader, has departed. In Busch Stadium, where balls traditionally die in the gaps, Cardinals pitchers have been content to lay the ball over the plate and let opponents hit it. Bob Tewksbury and Bryn Smith, in particular, will miss having all that outfield acreage.

STARTING PITCHING The Cardinals were one of a handful of clubs with pitching to trade over the winter. But no one was exactly clamoring for Bryn Smith or Jose DeLeon, veteran righthanders with hefty contracts. So Ken Hill was dealt for Andres Galarraga, and now the rotation is mostly No. 4 and 5 types.

Of course, a comeback by Joe Magrane could alter that. An 18-game winner three years ago, he underwent surgery on his left elbow last March and never threw a pitch. Magrane's injury was similar to those suffered by former Cardinals Danny Cox, Greg Mathews, John Tudor and Ken Dayley, and teammate Todd Worrell. That's serious, but Joe Torre expects Magrane to be ready by spring training. With his hard sinker/slider mix, Magrane primarily is a ground-ball pitcher. He likes to tail the ball away from righthanded batters, and loves to pitch inside.

The Cards think righthander Omar Olivares, 24, has the potential to be a No. 1 or 2 starter someday. Olivares, burned out from too much winter ball, barely made the club last spring and eventually spent a month in the minors. But he came on to win 11 games, most by a Cardinals rookie since Mathews won 11 in 1986. Olivares throws just about everything — fastball, slider, forkball, change. With his fluid, three-quarters motion, he was tougher on lefthanded hitters (.235) than righties (.254) last season. Olivares is an athlete. He hit .226 with three doubles, and proved adept at holding baserunners.

Righthander Bob Tewksbury is from the John Tudor-Tom Browning school — what hitters like to call a "comfortable 0 for 4." He throws his fastball 83 mph and his breaking pitch about 78, so there's not much to set them apart. But Tewksbury is adept at spotting the ball, and pitches inside out of necessity.

The monster dimensions at Busch Stadium were kind to Tewksbury, who was 6-3 at home and 5-9 on the road last season. Opponents batted .266 against him at Busch and .295 elsewhere. Wherever Tewksbury pitches, he makes hitters put the ball in play. Last year he averaged 3.1 pitches per batter, fewest among NL starters, and his 1.8 walks per nine innings ratio trailed only Zane Smith's 1.1.

Bryn Smith's assortment is no more glamorous than Tewksbury's. He throws a fastball in the low-to-mid-80s, a curve in the low 70s, and a palmball/change-up that acts like a knuckler. Smith has survived since 1981 because he doesn't miss a detail. He's quick to the plate, diligent at holding runners and sure-handed in the field. Just don't ask him to go more than seven innings.

For years, the book on Jose DeLeon has read, "Good stuff, usually finds a way to lose." But DeLeon's stuff wasn't quite so good last season. "He threw nothing but junk against us," said one opponent. DeLeon is a rarity — a forkball pitcher who throws more fly balls than ground outs. At 31, he is running out of chances to prove himself. DeLeon is a career 73-105 pitcher, and when the Cardinals shopped him the past winter, there wasn't a smidgen of interest.

If Magrane isn't ready, the Cardinals are counting on Rheal Cormier to serve as their designated lefty starter. He has command and poise, not to mention a major league work ethic. Cormier used to be a lumberjack in the offseason. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.5**

RELIEF PITCHING Lee Arthur Smith isn't a Hall of Fame candidate because of his work ethic. Two years ago, when a reporter asked if he'd done any throwing in the offseason, Smith replied, "One day a stray dog walked into my yard and I threw a rock at it."

But at 34, Smith is better than ever. He set the NL save record (47) last season, and joined Rollie Fingers, Goose Gossage, Jeff Reardon and Bruce Sutter in the 300-saves club.

A fastball remains the big righthander's out pitch, but Smith has mastered a slider and will mix in a change-up on occasion. He doesn't pitch inside much, but with that heater, it's not a necessity. All those years of pitching in Wrigley Field and Fenway Park helped Smith develop impeccable control. He issued only eight unintentional walks in 73 innings last year.

A good setup man is imperative for Smith, who reaches for an oxygen mask when asked

to pitch more than one inning. He reportedly weighed 265 pounds last September. For the sake of his knees and back, the Cardinals would love to see Smith shed 20.

Righthanders Cris Carpenter and Scott Terry are capable middle men. Carpenter's 10 victories last year were the most by a St. Louis reliever since Al Hrabosky's 13 in 1975. Carpenter has quick, deceptive arm action and an effective forkball. When his ball dives, he's fine. When it's up, he's hittable.

Terry throws the best sinker on the staff, and isn't afraid to pitch inside. But he has a history of arm trouble. A sore shoulder kept him out the final two weeks last season.

The pen will have room for righthander Todd Worrell, the closer from 1986-89, if he returns from "Tommy John" elbow surgery. Worrell gave reason for optimism when he threw 92-94 mph and pitched on consecutive days last fall in the instructional league. It remains to be seen if a power pitcher can come back from such a serious injury.

The Cardinals have quantity, if not quality, from the left side. Rubber-armed Juan Agosto has appeared in 70 or more games in each of the past four seasons. Struggling mightily with his release point last year, he resembled a human batting tee much of the time. Bob McClure, 39, relies on deception and little else.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

CATCHING Tom Paganzzi doesn't receive the acclaim — or salary — but many think he has passed Benito Santiago as the

NL's best defensive catcher. Paganzzi handles a staff with aplomb, is agile behind the plate, and has thrown out 116 of 268 runners (43 percent) in his career, thanks to a quality arm and an even better release.

Paganzzi provided more offense last season than the Cardinals expected. His 57 RBIs were the most by a St. Louis catcher since Darrell Porter's 68 in 1984. Though primarily an opposite-field hitter, Paganzzi started to pull more last year, and batted a mere .226 at Busch Stadium. All six of his career home runs have come in St. Louis' cavernous park.

The backup figures to be Rich Gedman. His bat speed is glacial and his defensive skills have eroded, but Gedman plays hard and comes cheap. He hit .106 in 94 at-bats in 1991. As a reward, he'll make \$150,000 this season, with a chance to earn an additional \$200,000 by appearing in 70 games. The Cardinals could be in trouble if Gedman plays that often.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

INFIELD Ozzie Smith built a reputation as a magician with his back flips and legerdemain in the field. But he pulled off a much

more impressive feat last season: He made time stand still.

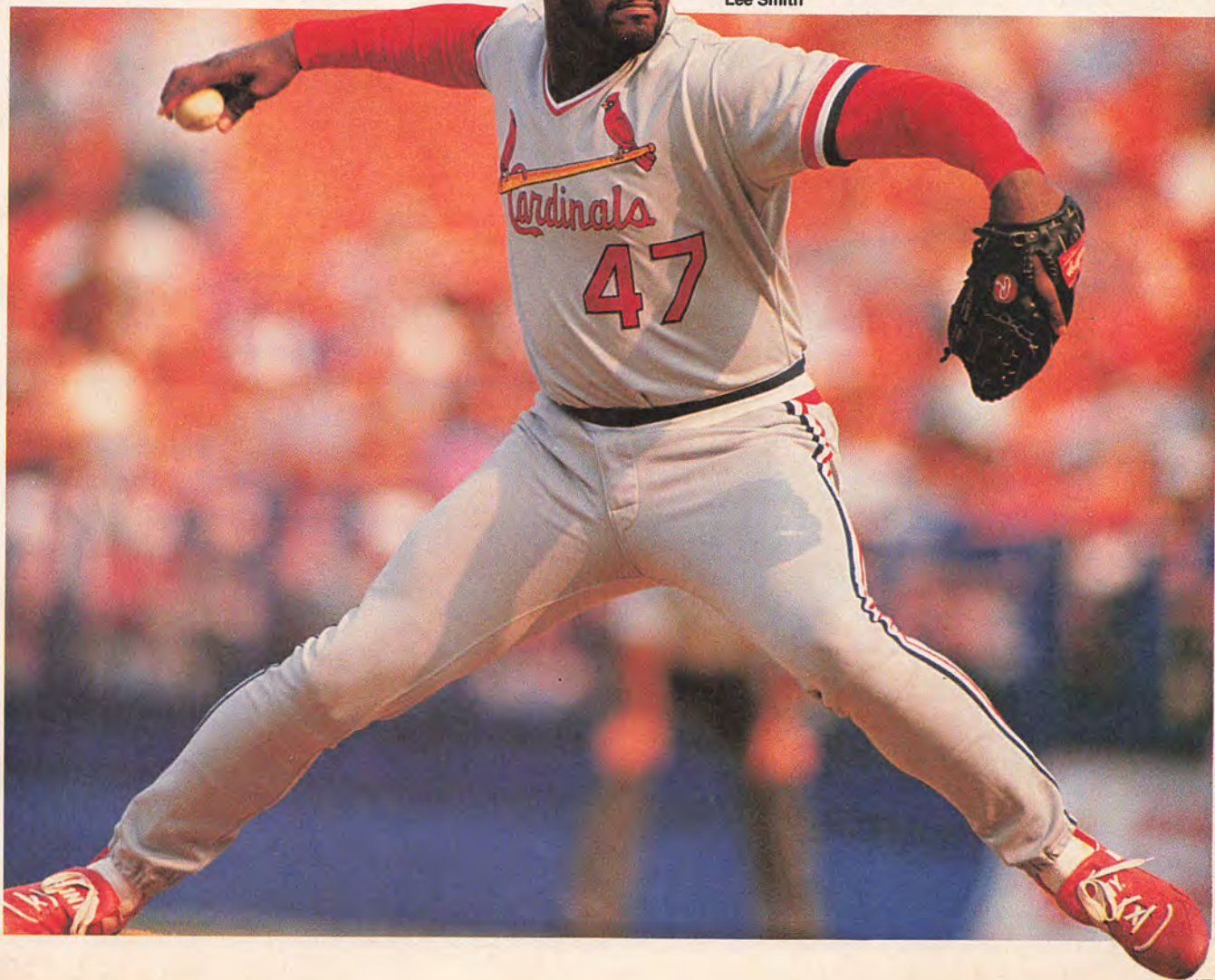
Of Smith's numerous attributes, pride and competitiveness might be the most valuable. When the baseball world speculated he was on the slide, he took the obituaries as a challenge.

Smith, who turned 37 the day after Christmas, coaxed All-Star production out of those old bones in his 14th major league season. He ranked in the league's top 10 in runs (96), walks (83), on-base percentage (.380) and steals (35). A balanced switch-hitter, Smith uses the whole field, and looks for the ball in certain locations rather than for one particular pitch. Jam him, and he usually is able to foul the pitch off. Smith likes to slash at the ball, especially when behind in the count. That style produces better results on the rug. He hit .313 on artificial turf last year; a feeble .197 on grass.

Smith set an NL record last season for fewest errors by a shortstop (8). He doesn't throw very well, so he plays shallower than most shortstops. Smith compensates with his knowledge of hitters, and gets rid of the ball in a hurry.

The Cardinals have punch and potential at third base in Todd Zeile, who made a successful transition from catcher. Like Joe Torre in his playing days, Zeile probably will develop into a pull hitter in the long run. To his credit, he is content to go the other way when pitchers linger on the outside corner. Zeile is strong enough to muscle balls to right field for hits.

Lee Smith



The Cardinals would like him to be a tad more aggressive at the plate. How's this for an obscure stat: Zeile looked at 62.4 percent of the pitches that came his way. Only Dave Magadan, Delino DeShields and Orlando Merced were more selective.

Zeile is no burner, but has a quick first step. He stole 17 bases in 28 attempts last season. Defensively, he's a notch below the Matt Williams-Ken Caminiti-Steve Buechele contingent. He has a strong arm, but made some careless throws out of fatigue last year. Scouts say he should improve in time at handling bunts and slow rollers.

Andres Galarraga is no Pedro Guerrero. The "Big Cat" was a 235-pound rally killer in Montreal last season. He drove in a run every 11.4 at-bats — dead last among the NL's full-time first basemen. Galarraga hit .109 with runners in scoring position and two outs. "He's been going backward the last couple of years," said a scout. "I don't know if it's a fat wallet or what. He just looks so nonchalant out there. Here was his big chance to stick out, and he just couldn't do it."

Galarraga is helpless against off-speed stuff, and hasn't been able to catch up to a good fastball, either. The Cardinals point out that he averaged 21 homers and 88 RBIs from 1987 to '90. While his fielding has slipped a bit, Galarraga is a two-time Gold Glove winner. He should save Zeile a few throwing errors.

Jose Oquendo, 28, is considered the likely heir to Ozzie at short. But while Smith was reestablishing himself last season, Oquendo's profile was slipping.

Suddenly, Oquendo is taking his lumps. While he has plus range, soft hands and a shortstop's arm, his speed is below average for a middle infielder. NL pitchers caught up with Oquendo last season. He hit a soft .240, with 1 homer and 26 RBIs. The Cardinals could carry a Judy hitter at second base if they had Barry Larkin at short. But even for a club that plays 81 games a year at Busch Stadium, four home runs from the starting middle infielders is a meager total.

Geronimo Pena, the second baseman of the future, has good range and plenty of speed, and can turn a double play. But the Cardinals don't know what to expect from Pena from

one day to the next. He's a free-swinging — 45 strikeouts in 185 at-bats last season — and tries to jack the ball out of the park rather than slap it on the ground and take advantage of his wheels. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

OUTFIELD When Ray Lankford took the Cardinals up on their offer to let him sit out the final weekend of the 1990 season, thereby preserving his eligibility for rookie of the year in '91, management wondered about his makeup. As it turned out, Lankford wasn't a factor in the voting. But he appears to be a player.

Lankford has the speed to bat leadoff, but patience is another matter. His strikeout/walk ratio (114 to 44) could stand improvement. He chases bad breaking balls, and smart pitchers can work him. Lankford no doubt will learn to take better advantage of his speed. He had only two bunt hits in 1991, and while he stole 44 bases, was thrown out 20 times. His 15 triples were the most by a Cardinal since Willie McGee's 18 in 1985.

Lankford might have been too cocky at the start of last season, but no one can accuse him of dogging it. He plays a relatively shallow center field, and has the instincts to make tough plays look easy. He's not afraid to run into walls.

When Joe Torre suggested Pedro Guerrero might play left field during a bull session at the winter meetings in Miami, the laughter from reporters was loud enough to be heard in Fort Lauderdale. Guerrero doesn't have enough mobility to get by at first base, much less the spacious perimeters of Busch Stadium. But as spring training approached, Guerrero indeed was ticketed for left. So much for conventional wisdom.

Nobody laughs when Guerrero has a bat in his hands. He's as dangerous with a game in the balance as any hitter in the NL. Despite missing six weeks last season because of a broken left leg, Guerrero was third on the club in RBIs (70). His .350 average with runners in scoring position ranked second in the league.

Rightfielder Felix Jose contributed eight home runs, 77 RBIs and a .305 average in 1991. The Cardinals would be just as happy with 18 homers, 100 RBIs and a .280 average. But let's not quibble. The 6-1, 221-pound Jose

has a home run hitter's body and a line-drive swing. Balls off his bat find the gaps at Busch Stadium. Jose's 40 doubles ranked second to Bobby Bonilla's 44 in the NL last year.

A switch-hitter, Jose has more power from the left side. As his 113 strikeouts last year attest, he has trouble making contact from both sides. Pitchers like to bust him in on the hands, then climb the ladder. He's no slouch against a breaking ball. For a muscular guy, Jose gets the job done in the field. His 15 assists ranked first among NL rightfielders last year.

Milt Thompson, one of the game's premier fourth outfielders, has been typecast as a platoon player. He fit that image last season, batting .333 against righties and .216 against lefties. Thompson uses the whole field, and is capable of hitting a mistake pitch out of the park. He's sound defensively.

Though he was a bust as a 1991 rookie, Bernard Gilkey hasn't been ruled out as the leftfielder of the future. He was set back by a thumb injury in June and, after being demoted to Louisville, a pulled quadriceps muscle in August. Gilkey batted .216, and his .196 average with runners on base was the worst in the NL. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

MANAGEMENT If the Cardinals hadn't faded last September, Joe Torre would have received more recognition in manager of the year balloting. He is a fine batting coach, and even better at human relations. Torre plans to continue hanging around the batting cage, but will be careful to allow new hitting coach Don Baylor room to function.

General manager Dal Maxvill has made some impressive trades — Lee Smith for Tom Brunansky, Omar Olivares for Alex Cole, Milt Thompson for Steve Lake and Curt Ford. Maxvill hasn't signed many free agents, but it's not his money to spend. If there is a persistent criticism of Maxvill, it is that he's of no particular mind to buck his Anheuser-Busch bosses. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

T.Q.®.34.5

PITCHERS															INFILDEERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Agosto, Juan	L-L	6-2	190	34	St. Louis	5-3	4.81	72	2	86	92	39	34	.291	Carmona, Greg	S-R	6-0	150	23	AA-AAA	.176	.218	176	17	31	2	1	2	11	7	
Carpenter, Kris	R-R	6-1	185	27	St. Louis	10-4	4.23	59	0	66	53	20	47	.220	Galarraga, Andres	R-R	6-3	235	30	Montreal	.219	.268	375	34	82	13	2	9	33	5	
Clark, Mark	R-R	6-5	225	23	AA-AAA	8-7	3.65	22	0	138	142	45	105	.267	Hudler, Rex	R-R	6-0	195	31	St. Louis	.227	.260	207	21	47	10	2	1	15	12	
				St. Louis	1-1	4.03	7	0	22	17	11	13	215		Jones, Tim	L-R	5-10	175	29	AAA	.256	.333	305	34	78	9	1	5	29	19	
Compres, Fidel	R-R	6-0	165	26	AA-AAA	4-4	3.70	37	9	47	59	20	25	.307					St. Louis	.167	.222	24	1	4	2	0	0	2	0		
Cormier, Rhee	L-L	5-10	185	24	AAA	7-9	4.23	21	0	128	140	31	74	.286	Oquendo, Jose	S-R	5-10	171	28	St. Louis	.240	.357	366	37	88	11	4	1	26	1	
				St. Louis	4-5	4.12	11	0	68	74	8	38	277		Pena, Geronimo	S-R	6-1	195	25	St. Louis	.243	.322	185	38	45	8	3	5	17	15	
DeLeon, Jose	R-R	6-3	226	31	St. Louis	5-9	2.71	28	0	163	144	61	118	.239	Perry, Gerald	L-R	6-0	201	31	St. Louis	.240	.300	242	29	58	8	4	6	36	15	
DiPino, Frank	L-L	6-0	194	35	AAA	0-0	36.00	2	0	1	2	3	0	.500	Royer, Stan	R-R	6-3	221	24	AAA	.254	.311	523	48	133	29	6	14	74	1	
Ericks, John	R-R	6-7	220	24	AAA	5-14	4.77	25	0	140	138	84	103	.260					St. Louis	.286	.318	21	1	6	1	0	0	1	0		
Magrane, Joe	R-L	6-6	230	27	Did Not Pitch										Smith, Ozzie	S-R	5-10	168	37	St. Louis	.285	.380	550	96	157	30	3	3	50	35	
McClure, Bob	R-L	5-11	188	39	California	0-0	9.31	13	0	10	13	5	5	.317	Wilson, Craig	R-R	5-11	208	27	St. Louis	.171	.222	82	5	14	2	0	0	13	0	
				St. Louis	1-1	3.13	32	0	23	24	8	15	282		Zeile, Todd	R-R	6-1	190	26	St. Louis	.280	.353	565	76	158	36	3	11	81	17	
Milchin, Mike	L-L	6-3	190	24	AA-AAA	8-11	4.53	24	0	129	59	48	86	.299																	
Olivares, Omar	R-R	6-1	193	24	AAA	1-2	3.47	6	0	36	39	16	27	.500	OUTFIELDERS	B-T <th>HL</th> <th>WL</th> <th>Age</th> <th>1991 Club</th> <th>Avg.</th> <th>OBP</th> <th>AB</th> <th>R</th> <th>H</th> <th>2B</th> <th>3B</th> <th>HR</th> <th>RBI</th> <th>SB</th>	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
				St. Louis	11-7	3.71	28	1	167	148	61	91	243		Carr, Chuck	S-R	5-10	165	23	AAA	.195	.253	246	34	48	6	1	1	11	27	
Smith, Bryn	R-R	6-2	205	36	St. Louis	12-9	3.85	31	0	199	188	45	94	.251					New York (NL)	.182	.182	11	1	2	0	0	0	1	1		
Smith, Lee	R-R	6-6	269	34	St. Louis	6-3	2.34	67	47	73	70	13	67	.249	Gilkey, Bernard	R-R	6-0	190	25	AAA	.146	.255	41	5	6	2	0	0	2	1	
Terry, Scott	R-R	5-11	195	32	St. Louis	4-4	2.80	65	1	80	76	32	52	.249					St. Louis	.216	.316	268	28	58	7	2	5	20	14		
Tewksbury, Bob	R-R	6-4	208	31	St. Louis	11-12	3.25	30	0	191	206	38	75	.281	Guerrero, Pedro	R-R	6-0	195	35	St. Louis	.272	.326	427	41	116	12	1	8	70	4	
Worrell, Todd	R-R	6-5	222	32	AAA	0-0	18.00	3	0	3	4	3	4	.308	Jordan, Brian	R-R	6-1	205	25	AAA	.264	.342	212	35	56	11	4	4	24	10	
															Jose, Felix	S-R	6-1	221	26	St. Louis	.305	.360	568	69	173	40	6	8	77	20	
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Lankford, Ray	L-L	5-11	198	24	St. Louis	.251	.301	566	83	142	23	15	9	69	44
Fernandez, Jose	L-R	6-3	210	24	AA	.228	.370	281	46	64	14	1	12	27	0	MacLin, Lonnie	L-L	5-11	160	25	AAA	.287	.320	327	35	94	12	2	4	37	19
Gedman, Rich	L-R	6-0	211	32	St. Louis	.106	.140	94	7	10	1	0	3	8	0	Thompson, Milt	L-R	5-11	200	33	St. Louis	.307	.368	326	55	100	16	5	6	34	16
Pagnozzi, Tom	R-R	6-1	190	29	St. Louis	.264	.319	459	38	121	24	5	2	57	9																
INFILDEERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Coaches — Red Schoendienst; Don Baylor; Gaylen Pitts; Dave Collins; Bucky Dent; Joe Coleman															
Alicea, Luis	S-R	5-9	177	26	AAA	.393	.462	112	26	44	6	3	4	16	5																
				St. Louis	.191	.276	68	5	13	3	0	0	0	0	0																
Brewer, Rod	L-L	6-3	218	26	AAA	.225	.300	382	39	86	21	1	8	52	4																
				St. Louis	.077	.077	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0																

Coaches — Red Schoendienst; Don Baylor; Gaylen Pitts; Dave Collins; Bucky Dent; Joe Coleman



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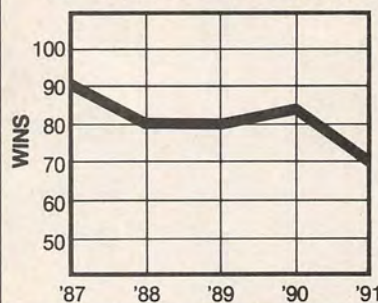
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MONTREAL EXPOS

1991 RECORD: 71-90 MANAGER: TOM RUNNELLS STADIUM: OLYMPIC (43,739)

5-YEAR SCAN



No team expects to go through a 162-game season without some weirdness. The Montreal Expos had more than their share in 1991.

On May 24 hitting instructor Hal McRae left to manage the Kansas City Royals. Ten days later the Expos fired respected manager Buck Rodgers, replacing him with 36-year-old Tom Runnells. On June 27 Olympic Stadium's roof was destroyed by 100-mph winds, forcing the remainder of the home schedule to be played outdoors. On July 26 Mark Gardner pitched nine no-hit innings against the Dodgers, only to lose in the 10th. Two days later Dennis Martinez threw the 15th perfect game in major league history. The season was capped by a 28-day, 26-game road trip made necessary after a 55-ton concrete beam fell at Olympic Stadium, rendering it unsafe.

The Expos were beaten 90 times, their most losses since 1976. They lost 61 games to National League East opponents. The kicker? The front office was decimated by the expansion Florida Marlins, who hired general manager Dave Dombrowski, player development director John Boles, and Gary Hughes and Frank Wren, the top people in the scouting department. More than a dozen people fled the Expos for the Marlins.

It figures to be calmer in Montreal this season, though the results should be about the same. The manager is unproven, the bullpen is weak, there's a void at first base caused by Andres Galarraga's exit, and the pitching staff is sure to miss departed coach Larry Bearnarth.

PITCHING To the general public, the staff consists of Dennis Martinez and a bunch of unknowns. But it would be unfair to blame the pitchers for Montreal's last-place finish in 1991. The staff posted a respectable 3.64 ERA, tied with the Dodgers for the league lead in shutouts (14) and limited opponents to a .244 batting average. Over the past two seasons, the Expos have yielded fewer hits than any other team in the league.

Former pitching coach Larry Bearnarth,

who had been hired by Buck Rodgers, was swept out by Tom Runnells and now works for the Colorado Rockies. New pitching coach Joe Kerrigan was promoted from within. He takes a hands-on approach and is familiar with the pitchers.

STARTING PITCHING It starts with El Presidente. Dennis Martinez is the Expos unquestioned ace. On a good club, he'd be a 20-game winner.

Martinez, 36, keeps rolling along, racking up innings, confounding opposing batters. He has pitched at least 215 innings each of the past four seasons while posting ERAs of 2.72,

3.18, 2.95 and 2.39. He is Montreal's only given, guaranteeing the Expos a quality start every fifth day. Yet Martinez has only a 24-22 record to show for the past two seasons, because of meager run support. Last season the Expos scored two or fewer runs in 14 of his 31 starts. Since Opening Day 1989 Martinez is 29-2 when supported with at least four runs.

Since he was a rookie with Baltimore in 1976, Martinez has had the whole package: one of the game's best curves, a moving fastball, a sharp slider and a good change-up, plus great command. Some clubs suspect Martinez makes the ball do tricks through judicious use of tobacco juice. Except for not holding

Dennis Martinez



runners well, he has no glaring shortcomings.

The deal that netted righthander Ken Hill from St. Louis for Andres Galarraaga could end up being a steal for Montreal. Hill, 26, showed increased maturity and consistency last season, yielding 147 hits in 181 innings and limiting opponents to a .224 batting average. He has a sinking, 92-mph fastball that can be overpowering, a sharp-breaking slider and a nasty split-finger pitch. Endowed with an athletic body and loose arm, he is able to sustain velocity for nine innings. The downside: Hill issues too many walks and too often is at a disadvantage in the count. With improved control, he can be a 15-game winner and strong No. 2 starter.

Hill's overpowering stuff should enhance a rotation that otherwise features finesse pitchers. Mark Gardner's 1991 season was delayed until May because of shoulder surgery, but it didn't affect his deluxe curve, a pitch he throws more than 40 percent of the time. Gardner uses the big-breaking yakkler to set up his 85-mph fastball. When he's locating the curve, he can be very tough, as evidenced by his nine no-hit innings against the Dodgers last July. Gardner's losing record was due to meager run support and having to make 19 of his 27 starts on the road. Among NL starters, only Jose DeLeon and Andy Benes received less support than Gardner (3.4 runs per nine innings) last season.

Lefthander Chris Nabholz was disabled for 65 days last season because of shoulder tendinitis, but came back strong enough to be the NL Pitcher of the Month for September, when he won six straight starts. Nabholz distracts batters with a funky delivery, and is effective with three breaking pitches and a tailing 86-mph fastball. At 25, he changes speeds with the poise of a veteran.

Brian Barnes is short of stature, stuff and control. The 5-9 lefthander spots his pedestrian fastball while trying to trick batters with a slow curve and a circle change that he keeps 6 inches off the plate. He throws the change about 50 percent of the time. Barnes was second to Martinez on the Expos in strikeouts last season, but walked a team-high 84. The Expos say a shoulder strain retarded Barnes' progress last season and believe he will be a better pitcher this year. Scouts aren't convinced.

Soft-tossing lefthander Chris Haney, son of former major league catcher Larry Haney, will compete with Barnes for the fifth spot in the rotation. Haney made 16 starts last season in three stints with the Expos, with limited success. He needs to develop confidence in and command of his pitches, including a quality circle change. A 1990 draft pick, Haney may need more work on the farm.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

RELIEF PITCHING Montreal's relievers struggled through most of 1991. Closer Tim Burke nibbled too much, blew seven save opportunities, and was traded to the Mets in July. Erstwhile setup man Barry Jones wasn't much better, blowing eight opportunities. By season's end, the Expos were back in a bullpen-by-committee mode, searching for a savior.

Hard-throwing righthander John Wetteland could be their man. Certainly the Expos gave up a lot — outfielder Dave Martinez, pitcher Scott Ruskin and third-base prospect Willie Greene — to acquire Wetteland from Cincinnati in December, just days after he had gone

to the Reds as part of the Dodgers' payment for Eric Davis.

Wetteland, 25, lost confidence in L.A., but has the qualities to be a dependable short man. He throws 90 mph and has a sharp-breaking curve. Formerly a starter, Wetteland adapted quickly to a closer's role at Triple-A Albuquerque last season, earning 20 saves, compiling a 2.79 ERA and striking out 55 in 61 innings.

Jones, after leading the NL in appearances (77) last season, demanded a trade. The Expos accommodated him with a ticket to Philadelphia, leaving setup duties to righthander Mel Rojas and lefty Jeff Fassero. Scouts think Rojas, 25, eventually will be a closer. He has a live arm and three quality pitches: 90-mph sinking fastball, sharp-breaking slider and above-average splitter. Rojas began to bloom late last season, posting a 2-0 record, 4 saves and 1.03 ERA in his final 13 appearances.

Fassero, 29, was on his way out of baseball a year ago, having bounced around the minors for seven seasons without pitching an inning in the majors. But after posting a 1.47 ERA in 18 appearances with Triple-A Indianapolis, he got a shot with the Expos. In 55 innings, Fassero yielded 39 hits, 17 walks and 1 home run. He keeps the ball down and handcuffs lefthanded batters with a hard slider.

Righthander Bill Sampen can spot start or work out of the bullpen. He has average stuff and usually throws strikes, but hung too many pitches last season, yielding 13 home runs in 92 innings.

Righthander Dave Wainhouse, 24, a first-round draft choice in 1988, may be ready to earn a spot with his hard sinker/slider mix.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

CATCHING Trying to create interest in a last-place club, the Expos claimed old favorite Gary Carter off waivers in November. However, Carter's agent, Dick Moss, was haggling with the Expos over money as spring training approached. Moss, who represented former Expos players Andre Dawson, Terry Francona, Steve Rogers and Neal Heaton, never has been on good terms with Montreal's front office.

Carter, 38, isn't The Kid whom the Expos traded to the Mets in 1985. He has 28 home runs the past four seasons after hitting 291 previously. The bat speed that once enabled him to turn on good fastballs is gone, but Carter still can yank a mistake into the gap or the first row in the left-field seats. Defensively, Carter knows the hitters, is adept at calling a game, and has a quick release to compensate for below-average arm strength.

Carter — if the contract snags are resolved — will platoon with Darrin Fletcher and Gilberto Reyes. Fletcher, a lefthanded batter acquired from the Phillies for Barry Jones, is a .228 hitter in 62 major league games and has little power. He's a decent receiver and blocks the ball well, but has a slow release and average arm strength.

Reyes, once a top prospect with the Dodgers, first appeared in the big leagues as a 19-year-old in 1983, but has only 258 career at-bats because he barely hits his weight. Behind the plate, Reyes moves well, has great hands, and throws with a quick, powerful arm. If pitchers give him a chance, he can stop a running game. Reyes last season stopped 53 percent of the runners who tried to steal against him — the best percentage in the major leagues.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

INFIELD Third baseman Tim Wallach, the rock of the infield for a decade, would prefer to finish his career with a contender, preferably in Southern California, but Montreal has resisted trading him.

Wallach slipped last season, posting career lows in batting average (.225) and extra-base hits (36). He continually chased sliders out of the strike zone, reminiscent of Dale Murphy in 1989. Those close to Wallach say he was worn down by the hopelessness of the situation. At the least, he was frustrated by the lack of production below him in the batting order and tried to do too much. If the Expos are counting on Wallach to return to his previous form, they may be disappointed. Though he still can get to low fastballs with his uppercut swing, Wallach's aggressiveness and decreased bat speed have made him easy prey for breaking pitches and high fastballs. With an accurate arm, soft hands and quick reactions, he remains a quality defender.

Wallach and Dennis Martinez waged a verbal war in the Montreal press the past winter after Wallach refused management's request to move to first base, a position left vacant when Andres Galarraaga was traded to St. Louis. Plan B was to explore the free agent (Alvin Davis?) market. Plan C was to move leftfielder Ivan Calderon to first base.

Calderon might be a good fit at the position. He catches the ball and moves well for a big man. Offensively, he provides the production desired from an infield corner. Calderon has worked hard to become a complete player. He was headed for a 100-RBI season in 1991 before suffering a left shoulder injury that required surgery. In 134 games he hit .300 with 19 home runs, 75 RBIs and 31 stolen bases. Calderon is vulnerable to hard stuff inside and will chase sliders away when behind in the count. A good clutch hitter, he murders fastballs from the middle out.

Montreal is prepared to take its lumps at shortstop while 20-year-old Wilfredo Cordero receives on-the-job training. The alternative is veteran Spike Owen, who has little range, a below-average arm and no pop in his bat. Cordero is an exciting prospect with terrific defensive skills and instincts, and a quick bat that eventually should produce 15 to 20 home runs a year. Lacking discipline afield and at the plate, Cordero committed 67 errors and struck out 211 times in 229 minor league games the past two seasons.

Like Cordero, second baseman Delino DeShields is a spectacular, raw athlete whose name usually evokes the word "potential." DeShields, 23, has a quick bat and exceptional speed, but is not an ideal leadoff hitter because he comes up empty too much at the plate and lacks discipline on the basepaths. He has been caught stealing 45 times the past two seasons, many on pickoffs at first base, and struck out 247 times. A dead fastball hitter, he appeared confused about the strike zone last season, taking many called third strikes and arguing frequently with umpires. He took his poor at-bats into the field, where he committed 27 errors, the NL high for second basemen. DeShields hurries everything and isn't adept at turning the double play. However, scouts agree that with maturity, he can be outstanding with the glove.

Bret Barberie, who hit .353 in 57 games as a rookie last season, would have played third base had Wallach moved to first. Barberie is a switch-hitter with a quick, line-drive bat from both sides. A natural second baseman with



Marquis Grissom

quick feet and soft hands, he can play any infield spot. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

OUTFIELD The Expos bid adieu to Tim Lincecum in December 1990, and never really missed him. That's no knock on Rock. It's just that Marquis Grissom has skills that remind scouts of, well, Tim Lincecum.

Grissom last season joined Raines and Ron LeFlore as the only Expos to lead the NL in stolen bases. Grissom has the quickest first step in the league and has learned to read pitchers. A .267 hitter last year, he could approach .300 if he learns to bunt. He has

56 career infield hits, none on bunts. His dynamic bat eventually could be worth 15 homers a year. The No. 2 batter in the order, Grissom prefers to pull the ball, but will go the other way and has improved against breaking pitches. Grissom may be the NL's best center-fielder not named Van Slyke. He can track down most fly balls, charges well and has a strong, accurate arm. His 15 assists last season tied for the league lead among outfielders.

Rightfielder Larry Walker gives the Expos a combination of speed and power, not to mention a native Canadian in the middle of the lineup. The lefthanded-hitting Walker had

a terrific second half in '91, hitting .338 over his final 71 games, with 32 extra-base hits and 41 RBIs. Scouts think he will be a consistent .280-20-80 man with 20 stolen bases. Pitchers have success jamming Walker, but when they leave the ball over the plate, he drives it hard, often to left-center. While he played in 39 games at first base last season, the Expos don't want to station him there permanently because they consider him more valuable in the outfield. Walker has excellent lateral range and a strong arm.

If Ivan Calderon goes to first base, the Expos will test Matt Stairs in left field. He was the Double-A Eastern League batting champ last season, hitting .333 with 53 extra-base hits. An aggressive hitter, he slashes balls into the gap and runs well. Stairs has failed infield trials at third and second, and played in only eight games in the outfield last season. A native of Canada, he will get plenty of opportunity.

Backup candidates include two who missed all of last season because of injuries. Darren Reed suffered a broken arm in spring training after being acquired from the Mets. He has a live bat and strong arm. Moises Alou, son of Expos coach Felipe Alou, had right shoulder surgery. He makes solid contact and can play center field. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

MANAGEMENT The Expos have the youngest manager in baseball in Tom Runnels, who turns 37 in April. They have the youngest general manager, too, in 33-year-old Dan Duquette. The jury remains out on Runnels, who appeared overmatched at times last season. Duquette's task is to repair damage in the scouting and player personnel departments, both pillaged by the expansion Florida Marlins.

Duquette also has to pinch pennies for the ownership group that purchased the Expos last June from Charles Bronfman. Strapped for cash, the new owners are unlikely to bid for free agents or trade for high-priced veterans. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.0**

T.Q.®28.0

PITCHERS														CATCHERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Barnes, Brian	L-L	5-9	170	25	A-AAA	2-1	1.00	4	0	18	9	12	16	158	Carter, Gary	R-R	6-2	214	38	Los Angeles	.246	.323	248	22	61	14	0	6	26	2
				Montreal	5-8	4.20	28	0	160	135	84	117	233	Colbrunn, Greg	R-R	6-0	190	22	Did Not Play											
Bottenfield, Kent	S-R	6-3	225	23	AAA	8-15	4.06	29	0	166	155	61	108	246	Fletcher, Darrin	L-R	6-1	199	25	Philadelphia	.228	.255	136	5	31	8	0	1	12	2
Farmer, Howard	R-R	6-3	192	26	AAA	6-4	3.86	20	0	105	93	37	67	238	Kremers, Jimmy	L-R	6-3	210	26	AAA	.241	.329	290	34	70	14	0	11	42	40
Fassero, Jeff	L-L	6-1	195	29	AAA	3-0	1.47	18	4	18	11	7	12	177	Laker, Tim	R-R	6-2	185	22	A-AA	.236	.288	368	40	87	16	2	6	38	10
				Montreal	2-5	2.44	51	8	55	39	17	42	196	Natal, Robert	R-R	5-11	190	26	AA-AAA	.265	.366	374	49	99	4	0	13	62	1	
Frey, Steve	R-L	5-9	170	28	AAA	3-1	1.51	30	3	36	25	15	45	197	Reyes, Gilberto	R-R	6-2	212	28	Montreal	.217	.285	207	11	45	9	0	0	13	2
				Montreal	0-1	4.99	31	1	40	43	23	21	281																	
Gardner, Mark	R-R	6-1	200	30	AAA	2-0	3.48	6	0	31	26	16	38	232																
				Montreal	9-11	3.85	27	0	168	139	75	107	230																	
Haney, Chris	L-L	6-3	185	23	AA-AAA	6-4	2.41	14	0	94	79	37	76	237																
				Montreal	3-7	4.04	16	0	85	94	43	51	280																	
Hill, Ken	R-R	6-2	175	26	AAA	0-0	0.00	7	0	1	0	0	2	000																
				St. Louis	11-10	3.57	30	0	181	147	67	121	224																	
Hurst, Jon	R-R	6-3	175	25	A-AA	15-3	2.27	26	1	166	133	49	142	225																
Martinez, Dennis	R-R	6-1	180	36	Montreal	14-11	2.39	31	0	222	187	62	123	226																
Nabholz, Chris	L-L	6-5	212	25	AAA	2-2	1.86	4	0	19	13	5	16	191																
				Montreal	8-7	3.63	24	0	154	134	57	99	237																	
Platt, Doug	L-R	6-1	190	26	AAA	6-4	3.45	44	13	47	40	27	61	231																
				Montreal	0-0	2.60	21	0	35	29	17	29	230																	
Rojas, Mel	R-R	5-11	185	25	AAA	4-2	4.10	14	1	53	50	14	55	250																
				Montreal	3-3	3.75	37	6	48	42	13	37	228																	
Sampen, Bill	R-R	6-2	195	29	AAA	4-0	2.04	7	0	40	33	19	41	223																
				Montreal	9-5	4.00	43	0	92	96	46	52	273																	
Wainhouse, David	L-R	6-2	185	24	AA-AAA	4-2	3.14	47	12	81	77	32	59	251																
				Montreal	0-1	6.75	2	0	3	2	4	1	222																	
Wetteland, John	R-R	6-2	195	25	AAA	4-3	2.79	41	20	61	48	26	55	227																
				Los Angeles	1-0	0.00	6	0	9	5	3	9	161																	
Young, Pete	R-R	6-0	225	24	AA	7-5	2.60	54	13	90	82	24	74	243																

INFELDERS														OUTFIELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Barberie, Bret	S-R	5-11	180	24	AAA	.312	.461	218	45	68	10	4	10	48	10	Alou, Moises	R-R	6-3	190	25	Did Not Play										
				Montreal	.353	.435	136	16	48	12	2	2	18	0	Calderon, Ivan	R-R	6-1	221	30	Montreal	.300	.368	470	69	141	22	3	19	75	31	
Canale, George	L-R	6-1	190	26	AAA	.234	.355	274	36	64	10	2	10	47	6	Grisson, Marquis	R-R	5-11	190	24	Montreal	.267	.310	558	73	149	23	9	6	39	76
				Milwaukee	.176	.318	34	6	6	2	0	3	10	0	Reed, Darren	R-R	6-1	205	26	Did Not Play											
Cordero, Wilfredo	R-R	6-2	185	20	AAA	.261	.315	360	48	94	16	4	11	52	8	Stairs, Matt	R-R	5-9	175	23	AA	.333	.411	505	87	168	30	10	13	78	23
DeShields, Delino	L-R	6-1	170	23	Montreal	.238	.347	563	83	134	15	4	10	51	56	Vanderval, John	L-L	6-2	190	25	AAA	.293	.393	478	84	140	36	8	15	71	8
Foley, Tom	L-R	6-1	175	32	Montreal	.208	.269	168	12	35	11	1	0	15	2																
Owen, Spike	S-R	5-10	170	30	Montreal	.255	.321	424	39	108	22	8	3	26	2																
Wallach, Tim	R-R	6-3	202	34	Montreal	.225	.292	577	60	130	22	1	13	73	2																

Coaches — Felipe Alou; Tommy Harper; Joe Kerrigan; Jerry Manuel; Jay Ward													
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Coaches — Felipe Alou; Tommy Harper; Joe Kerrigan; Jerry Manuel; Jay Ward

NL WEST

1991 STANDINGS

	W-L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	94-68	.580	—
Los Angeles	93-69	.574	1
San Diego	84-78	.519	10
San Francisco	75-87	.463	19
Cincinnati	74-88	.457	20
Houston	65-97	.401	29

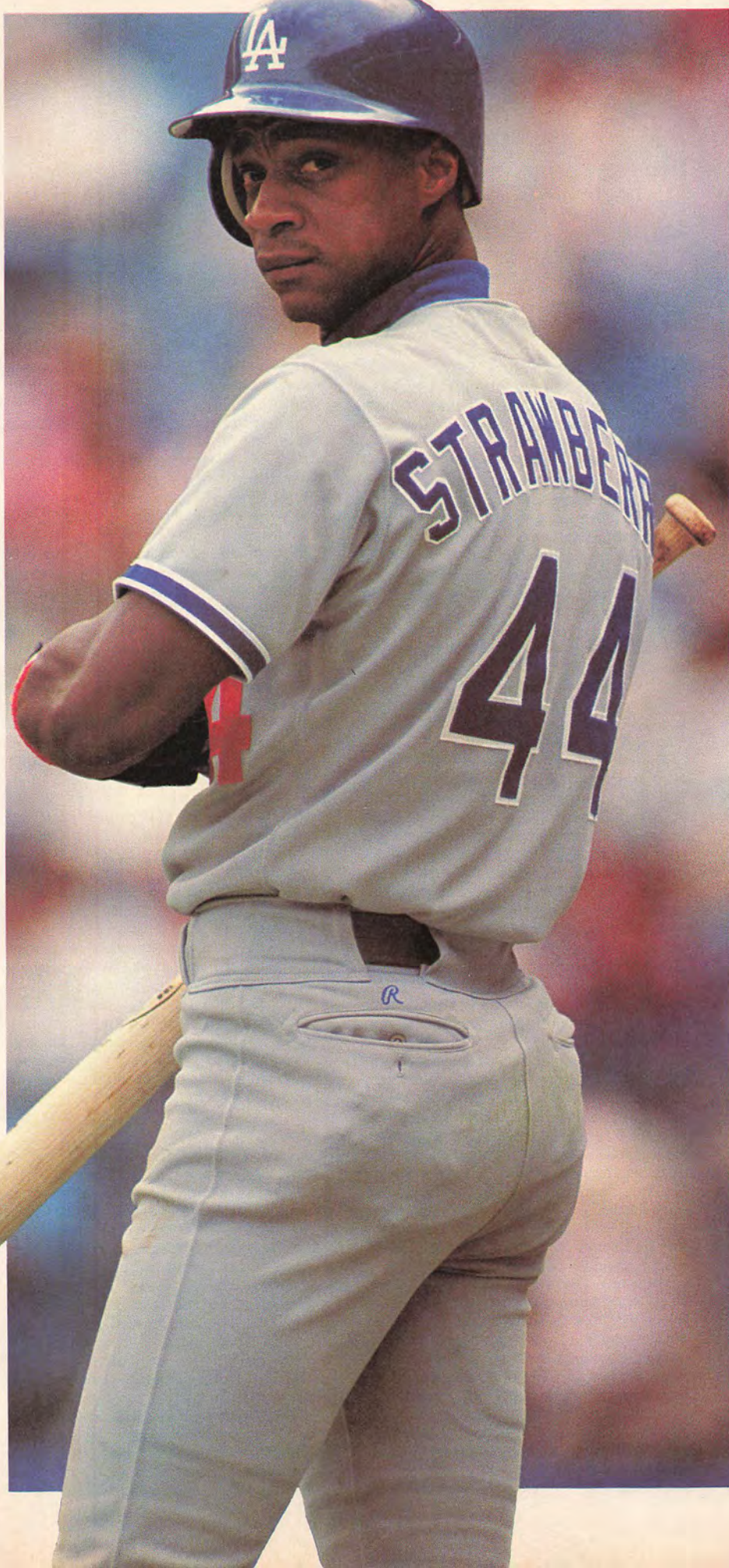
5-YEAR SCAN

	W-L	PCT	AVG. DIV. FINISH
San Francisco	425-385	.525	2.6
Los Angeles	423-384	.524	2.6
Cincinnati	411-398	.508	3.0
San Diego	396-413	.489	3.6
Houston	384-426	.474	4.2
Atlanta	345-460	.429	4.8

1992

1. Cincinnati
2. Atlanta
3. Los Angeles
4. San Diego
5. San Francisco
6. Houston

Darryl Strawberry, Los Angeles



CINCINNATI REDS

1991 RECORD: 74-88 MANAGER: LOU PINIELLA STADIUM: RIVERFRONT (52,952)



When Lou Piniella and Bob Quinn fled the George Steinbrenner regime to join the Reds in 1989, they were hailed as the ideal front office team. Piniella, the manager, lives for today. Quinn, the general manager, thinks long-term. Piniella is passion, Quinn is prudence. Piniella is full speed ahead, Quinn is hold your horses.

That check-and-balance system worked to perfection in Quiniella's first year on the job. Quinn, nudged along by Piniella, made five trades to help the Reds go wire-to-wire and win their first World Series in 14 years.

But once Todd Benzinger caught Carney Lansford's foul pop to end the 1990 World Series, inertia gripped Cincinnati. The Reds stuck with the same cast last season, and by the end of July, the chemistry in the clubhouse was as stale as owner Marge Schott's dog jokes.

The Reds fell, and fell hard, in 1991. As if a 74-88 record and fifth place in the National League West weren't embarrassment enough, they lost 50 of their last 84 games, a display that prompted pitcher Jose Rijo to brand them as quitters. But failure brought a renewed sense of purpose in Cincinnati. The Reds dedicated themselves to restructuring in the off-season and — presto change-o — got down to business. In a span of four weeks in November and December, they traded Eric Davis, Randy Myers, Scott Scudder, Jack Armstrong and two minor leaguers for Greg Swindell, Tim Belcher, Dave Martinez, Bip Roberts, Scott Ruskin and two minor leaguers.

The 1992 edition of Cincinnati baseball will feature pitching, speed, defense and more pitching. Let's we forget, the Reds led the league with 164 home runs last season. So we're not exactly talking about a popgun offense.

Piniella is breathlessly awaiting Opening Day. "We did everything we wanted to do, and we hardly touched our nucleus at all," he says. "Now it's up to the players to re-commit themselves to a purpose and the manager to

get the job done on the field. We're going to have some fun in Cincinnati this year."

PITCHING The Reds' ERA rose from 3.39 in 1990 to 3.83 last season. The staff had seven fewer complete games, yielded 34 more hits and 64 more earned runs, so it came as no surprise when Stan Williams lost his job as pitching coach. Larry Rothschild, Williams' successor, inherits a staff long on balance and experience. Judging from their pedigrees, Jose Rijo, Tom Browning, Greg Swindell and Tim Belcher all are capable of winning 18-20 games. With Norm Charlton and Rob Dibble at the end of the bullpen, Piniella will be happy with a strong seven innings from his starters on most nights.

STARTING PITCHING Whether he's mimicking Ruben Sierra's batting stance, making behind-the-back stabs on balls up the middle or quoting his "idol," Donald Trump, Jose Rijo forever is colorful. He also is a Cy Young Award winner in waiting.

Rijo, 26, always has had an outstanding right arm, and now has learned how to pitch. Riverfront Stadium is death on pitchers, but Rijo went 9-0 with a 2.99 ERA at home last season. Despite missing six starts because of a fractured right ankle, he went 15-6 and ranked in the NL's top 10 in six pitching categories. Rijo has the NL's best slider, and a fastball good enough to blow away hitters. His forkball is effective, too, but the more he throws it, the more he complains of arm trouble. Rijo gives the Reds the entire package. He hit .209 last season, and picked off five baserunners, though 16 of 19 were successful stealing with him on the mound. It's almost as much fun to watch him field as pitch.

Lefthander Tom Browning, the senior member of the staff, has the most awe-inspiring fastball this side of...well...Bob Tewksbury. When Browning cracks 85 mph on the radar gun, the Reds check his saliva. In September Piniella talked to Browning about the perils of throwing the ball too hard. "He has to rely on location, deception and keeping the hitters off-balance," Piniella said. "When he throws too hard, the ball straightens out and he gets hit. He's better off throwing about 78 or 79 mph consistently, like Tommy John did."

Browning, who went 1-6 in his final seven starts, tried to do too much after Rijo went down with the ankle injury in June. With Rijo, Swindell and Belcher on hand, Browning can settle in as the No. 3 or 4 starter. His approach is relatively simple: change speeds, knock hitters off the plate, make sure no one is on base when the ball leaves the yard. Browning has yielded a whopping 123 homers since 1988, but 83 were solo shots and 34 two-run pokes.

Swindell, 60-55 lifetime with Cleveland, is

Browning with a better fastball. He loves to challenge hitters and is a favorite of teammates because he works so quickly. Swindell's average of 1.2 walks per nine innings last season was second best in the majors to Zane Smith's 1.1.

Swindell carries himself like Roger Clemens, but doesn't throw as hard. His best pitch is a slider, and he changes speeds with a tight curve. When Swindell is right, he will induce a lot of fly balls to center field. That approach will serve him better on the road than at Riverfront.

Belcher, 30, won't surprise anyone if he emerges as a big winner. Scouts wonder why he hasn't already. Belcher went 10-9 with 14 no-decisions for a Dodgers team that made a habit of winning late. Belcher, a drop-and-drive type in the mold of his boyhood hero, Tom Seaver, has a reputation as a power pitcher. But his fastball the past two years hasn't measured up to its previous standards, and he's hung some sliders in crucial situations. He suffered from the lockout in 1990, and never quite came around last year after offseason shoulder surgery.

It will be interesting to see how Belcher adjusts to the mound at Riverfront. After suffering a groin pull in Cincinnati last September, he filed a protest to NL president Bill White.

With Scott Scudder and Jack Armstrong gone, lefthander Chris Hammond has the inside track on the No. 5 spot. Hammond's change-up is so good, hitters routinely lunge at it and beat the ball into the ground. But Hammond's change is less effective when he has trouble throwing his fastball for strikes. As a rookie last season, he averaged 4.3 walks per nine innings — too many for a finesse pitcher. Hammond throws a slider and a curve, but might have to settle on one or the other. The breaking stuff was the source of his persistent elbow soreness last year.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.5

RELIEF PITCHING Nice year for Rob Dibble. He displaced Randy Myers as the closer, converted his first 23 save opportunities and made the All-Star team for the second year in a row. Along the way, Dibble also: 1) drew two suspensions, and narrowly escaped a third for firing a ball off Doug Dascenzo's leg; 2) engaged in a publicized feud with his parents; 3) called some teammates "dogs" on the radio; and 4) announced he was seeing a therapist to address his off-the-field problems, only to quit after two sessions.

Dibble's castor-oil disposition never will change. He's only happy when complaining. But if he can remain focused and channel his aggressiveness, there is no reason he can't supplant Lee Smith as the league's top closer.

Dibble saved 31 games last year, but dropped off noticeably in the second half. His slider

flattened out, and it showed against right-handed batters. Righties hit .258 against him, lefties .197. The Reds' sorry performance also might have been a factor. They were out of the race by late July, and Dibble, an adrenaline pitcher, has trouble working in games that don't matter. At his best, Dibble dominates like no one else. He set a major league record last year by averaging 13.6 strikeouts per nine innings.

Where Dibble's buddy, Norm Charlton, is concerned, the line between perception and reality tends to blur. Charlton took offense when Giants manager Roger Craig accused him of throwing a spitter, but isn't averse to walking around the mound, licking his fingers and staring at the hitter, just for sport. When Charlton admitted throwing at Dodgers catcher Mike Scioscia — thereby earning a seven-game suspension — don't think a few NL hitters weren't taking notes.

Charlton's stuff is so good, he doesn't have to resort to mind games. He has a killer forkball, sharp slider and plus fastball. All that movement resulted in a staff-leading 11 wild pitches. Reds catchers will tell you Charlton is infinitely tougher to catch than Dibble.

The Reds have a competent setup duo in righthander Steve Foster and lefthander Scott Ruskin. Foster, who impressed Piniella in a 14-inning look-see in September, throws a nasty split-finger pitch and has a quick deliv-

ery. He's been timed at 0.98 seconds to home plate. Ruskin, acquired from Montreal during the offseason, will take the load off Charlton by pitching to lefties in the sixth, seventh and eighth. He has a nasty hook, but courts trouble when unable to throw it for strikes.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.5

CATCHING As a disciple of the Billy Martin school of managing, Lou Piniella is extremely demanding of his catchers. Needless to say, he wasn't happy with what he witnessed last season.

Joe Oliver, who drove in 52 runs in 1990 and contributed the winning hit off Dennis Eckersley in Game 2 of the World Series, walked out of training camp in a contract dispute and spent most of the summer in Piniella's doghouse. Bothered by shoulder problems, Oliver stopped only 22 of 90 runners trying to steal. He underwent arthroscopic surgery on his rotator cuff in October.

If fit, Oliver has a strong arm and 15-homer power. He won't win any points for his work ethic, nor is he likely to be confused with Johnny Bench receiving the ball. Oliver could use a dose of plate discipline, too. After 2½ seasons, he still hasn't learned to lay off the high fastball.

The Reds claimed Bob Geren in December after the Yankees placed him on waivers. If Piniella sticks with his plan to carry three catchers, Geren will make the roster. He's a strong thrower and sound receiver, but the

extent of his offense is an occasional long ball. Jeff Reed, a decent contact hitter, is the left-handed half of the platoon system. He has a below-average arm.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

INFIELD First baseman Hal Morris is so fidgety in the batter's box, a writer once compared him to a squirrel crossing the highway at rush hour. While his style is unorthodox, he is successful. Morris finished second to Terry Pendleton last year in the batting race, .319 to .318, and was standing in the on-deck circle when Bill Doran made the final out of the season.

Morris received some criticism for taking a seat against tough lefthanders. But he played with a sore shoulder for three months, and hit a respectable .252 against lefties, while posting an NL-leading .336 against righthanders. Despite his fidgeting, Morris rarely is caught off-balance at the plate. He drives the ball hard the opposite way, and is patient enough to wait on breaking balls and change-ups. Morris isn't quick out of the box, but is a long-strider. He stole 10 bases, and grounded into only four double plays in 478 at-bats. He remains a bit tentative in the field, but has improved considerably.

The Reds took a risk when they signed second baseman Doran to a three-year, \$7.3 million contract before last season. He underwent back surgery in October 1990, and has yet to fully recover. The injury affected Doran's power, range and base-stealing ability.

Doran vowed to work his way through the pain, and given his blood-and-guts mentality, it's a good bet he will succeed. The Reds could use him. In a lineup of free-swinging, fastball hitters, Doran rarely offers at anything outside the strike zone and handles the bat adeptly from either side. Defensively, he positions himself smartly and is efficient turning the double play.

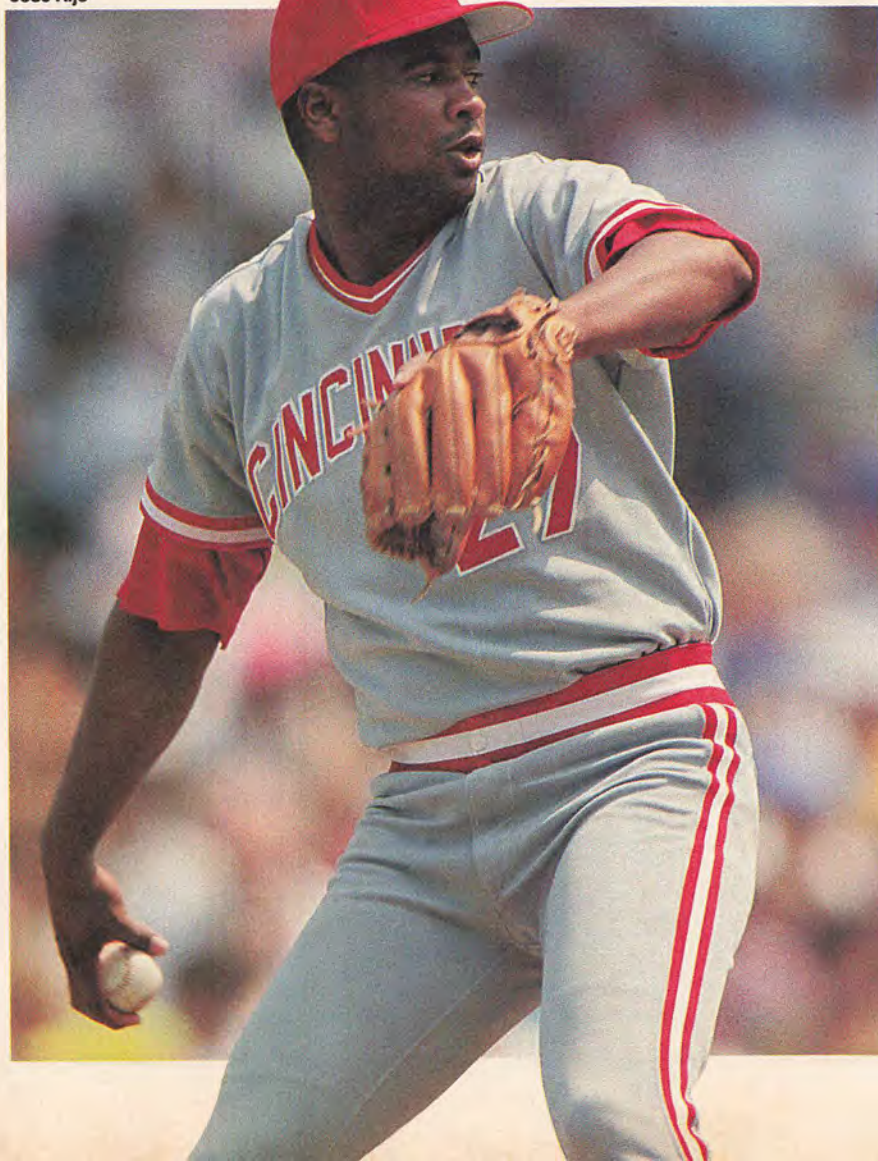
With the departure of Eric Davis to Los Angeles, shortstop Barry Larkin assumes the role of Big Cheese in the clubhouse. Teammates respect him because he plays hard and demands so much of himself. But he pays a price for his aggressiveness. All those contortions and acrobatics forced Larkin to miss 39 games in 1991. His throwing mechanics are unorthodox — he comes exclusively over the top, no matter what position he's in — and his arm occasionally feels the strain. But as one scout points out, "You really have to nit-pick to find fault with this guy."

Larkin makes plays most shortstops only fantasize about. He's fine going into the hole, exceptional ranging toward second, and even better at charging balls. His offensive skills have earned him four consecutive Silver Slugger awards. He hit 20 homers last season and was fifth in the league in slugging (.506). Larkin is a free-swinger, but averages only one strikeout every 11.1 at-bats. He is the Reds' best bad-ball hitter.

If Larkin was the flashiest Red last season, Chris Sabo was club MVP. The feisty third baseman hit a career-high .301, launched 26 home runs and finished among NL leaders in slugging (.505), doubles (35) and total bases (294). A quintessential gamer, Sabo appeared in 153 games despite creaky knees. As one scout put it, "He refuses to allow himself to be injured."

Throw Sabo a fastball on the inside half of the plate and you're begging for trouble. Sabo's swing is so compact, Piniella used him

Jose Rijo



as the model for a hitting videotape. Sabo has lost a step on the bases and, as a result, isn't quite so reckless anymore. In the field, he doesn't look good doing it, but gets it done. His hands are sure, his arm deadly accurate.

With Mariano Duncan out of the way,

Barry Larkin



Freddie Benavides probably will take over as designated backup to Larkin. He's a slap hitter, and has decent range and a superb arm.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

OUTFIELD Rightfielder Paul O'Neill flipped fewer bats, tossed fewer helmets and hit with more sock than ever in 1991. He led the Reds in homers (28) and RBIs (91), and with Eric Davis gone, will have to handle the burden of batting cleanup this year.

O'Neill hit .229 against lefthanders, and Lou Piniella still is hesitant to play him against the Tom Glavines and Steve Averys. O'Neill is sensitive to such slights. When he checks the lineup card and his name is missing, his first instinct is to sulk. O'Neill has all the physical tools. He's quick inside, and the harder pitchers throw, the better he likes it. Against lefties, O'Neill could stand to be more aggressive. Too often, he's barely in the box and down 0-2 in the count. O'Neill is a solid outfielder with a strong arm. His 13 assists last season were second to St. Louis' Felix Jose among NL rightfielders.

Reggie Sanders, the Reds centerfielder of the future, is strikingly similar to their centerfielder of the past, Davis. Both are former shortstops with flying feet, electric bats and a susceptibility to injury. The centerfielder of the present is Dave Martinez, who gives the Reds the luxury of optioning Sanders to Triple-A Nashville.

Martinez, obtained in trade from Montreal, fills the Reds' need for a lefthanded bat. He's a pull hitter, so Piniella likes the idea of using him in the No. 2 spot in the order. Martinez can chase down balls in the gaps, and has a gun for an arm. The raps on him are relatively minor. He hit .237 against lefties in '91, and while he stole 16 bases in 23 attempts, does not make optimum use of his speed. One scout describes Martinez as "timid" on the bases.

Not so with Bip Roberts, whose flat-out style placed him second only to Tony Gwynn in popularity among San Diego fans. Piniella, a born tinkerer, used 10 batters in the leadoff spot last season. The acquisition of the switch-hitting Roberts will provide stability. He's averaged 84 runs and 31 steals the past three seasons, and hit .401 on artificial turf in 1990.

Piniella, accustomed to handling Davis with care, will take a similar approach with Roberts. He missed 45 games last year because of a smorgasbord of ailments. He suffered injuries to his back, a shoulder and a knee, broke a tooth biting into a piece of chicken, and incurred food poisoning after eating a batch of bad shrimp. Roberts is primarily an offensive player. His hands and arm are suspect, but he's fair in left field, and capable of playing second or third in a pinch.

The addition of Martinez, Roberts and Sanders could put a crimp in the playing time of Billy Hatcher and Glenn Braggs, provided they're with the club. Hatcher, 31, is a handy guy to have around. He plays hard and he plays hurt. If only he could hit a breaking ball. Braggs, 6-4, 220 pounds, leads the league in muscle mass. He's capable of astonishingly good or agonizingly bad streaks at the plate. Braggs has what one scout calls a "one-groove" swing. He can hit mistakes out of the park, but good pitchers know how to work him.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

MANAGEMENT Owner Marge Schott's tenure has been marked by lawsuits, levity and lots of turnover. A half-dozen front office employees resigned or were canned in the final months of 1991. But Schott gets a bad rap when people say she's too cheap to pay players. The Reds payroll rose from \$15 to \$27 million last year, and will take a sizable leap in '92.

After a year of closing his eyes, crossing his fingers and praying for the best, GM Bob Quinn got wise to the program. Realizing he'd be the next to go if things failed to improve, he turned into a trading demon over the winter.

As for Lou Piniella, he spent much of last season grouching privately about the Reds' unwillingness to address personnel problems. Piniella is hard-driving and impulsive — he used 11 different leftfielders in '91 — but should be more relaxed now that he has a team he likes. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

T.Q.41.0

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	
Ayala, Bobby	R-R	6-2	190	22	AA	3-1	4.67	39	4	91	79	58	92	.237	
Belcher, Tim	R-R	6-3	223	30	Los Angeles	10-9	2.62	33	0	209	189	75	156	.240	
Browning, Tom	L-L	6-3	195	31	Cincinnati	14-14	4.18	36	0	230	241	56	115	.267	
Charlton, Norm	S-L	6-3	205	29	Cincinnati	3-5	2.91	39	1	108	92	34	77	.238	
Dibble, Rob	L-R	6-4	230	28	Cincinnati	3-5	3.17	67	31	82	67	25	124	.224	
Foster, Steve	R-R	6-0	180	25	AA-AAA	2-5	1.93	58	22	70	56	33	70	.218	
					Cincinnati	0-0	1.93	11	0	14	7	4	11	.143	
Garcia, Victor	R-R	6-2	195	22	AA-AAA	7-3	2.19	55	5	74	56	34	63	.165	
Hammond, Chris	L-L	6-1	190	26	Cincinnati	7-7	4.06	20	0	100	92	48	50	.252	
Henry, Dwayne	R-R	6-3	205	30	Houston	3-2	3.19	52	2	68	51	39	51	.219	
Hill, Mit	R-R	6-0	180	26	AAA	3-3	2.94	37	3	67	59	15	62	.239	
					Cincinnati	1-1	3.78	22	0	33	36	6	20	.300	
Hoffman, Trevor	R-R	6-0	200	24	A-AA	2-1	2.12	41	12	48	32	20	75	.189	
Layana, Tim	R-R	6-2	190	28	AAA	3-1	3.23	26	1	47	41	28	43	.233	
					Cincinnati	0-2	6.77	22	0	21	23	39	57	.277	
Minutelli, Gino	L-L	6-0	190	27	AA-AAA	5-7	1.74	15	0	88	59	35	64	.192	
					Cincinnati	0-2	6.04	16	0	25	30	18	21	.291	
Powell, Ross	L-L	5-11	180	24	AAA	8-8	4.37	24	0	130	125	63	82	.253	
Pugh, Tim	R-R	6-6	225	25	AA-AAA	10-12	3.61	28	0	187	50	67	113	.226	
Rijo, Jose	R-R	6-2	210	26	Cincinnati	15-6	2.51	30	0	204	165	55	172	.219	
Ruskin, Scott	R-L	6-2	185	28	Montreal	4-4	4.24	64	6	64	57	30	46	.241	
Sanford, Mo	R-R	6-6	225	25	AA-AAA	10-4	2.44	21	0	129	88	77	162	.193	
					Cincinnati	1-2	3.86	5	0	28	19	15	31	.188	
Satre, Jason	R-R	6-1	180	21	A-AA	9-13	3.22	29	1	177	138	93	174	.216	
Swindell, Greg	S-L	6-3	225	27	Cleveland	9-16	3.48	33	0	238	241	31	169	.263	
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Geren, Bob	R-R	6-3	228	30	New York (AL)	.219	.270	128	7	28	3	0	2	12	0
Oliver, Joe	R-R	6-3	210	26	Cincinnati	.216	.265	269	21	58	11	0	11	41	0

CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Reed, Jeff	L-R	6-2	190	29	Cincinnati	.267	.321	270	20	72	15	2	3	31	0
Sutko, Glenn	R-R	6-3	225	23	AA-AAA	.239	.336	197	21	47	5	1	6	26	1
					Cincinnati	.100	.250	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
INFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Benavides, Freddie	R-R	6-2	185	25	AA	.242	.277	331	24	80	8	0	0	21	7
					Cincinnati	.286	.303	63	11	18	1	0	0	3	1
Branson, Jeff	L-R	6-0	180	25	AA-AAA	.256	.314	449	45	115	17	4	2	29	8
Doran, Bill	S-R	6-0	180	33	Cincinnati	.280	.359	361	51	101	12	2	6	35	5
Greene, Willie	L-R	5-11	160	21	A	.217	.325	322	46	70	9	3	12	43	9
Lane, Brian	R-R	6-3	215	22	Did Not Play										
Larkin, Barry	R-R	6-0	190	27	Cincinnati	.302	.378	464	88	140	27	4	20	69	24
Morris, Hal	L-L	6-4	215	26	Cincinnati	.318	.374	478	72	158	33	1	14	59	10
Sabo, Chris	R-R	6-0	185	30	Cincinnati	.301	.354	582	91	175	35	3	26	88	19
OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Braggs, Glenn	R-R	6-4	220	29	Cincinnati	.260	.323	250	36	65	10	0	11	39	11
Brunfield, Jacob	R-R	6-0	170	26	AAA	.267	.323	397	62	106	14	7	3	43	36
Hatcher, Billy	R-R	5-10	190	31	Cincinnati	.262	.312	442	45	116	25	3	4	41	11
Hernandez, Cesar	R-R	6-0	160	25	AA	.254	.304	418	58	106	16	2	13	52	34
Martinez, Dave	L-L	5-10	170	27	Montreal	.295	.332	396	47	117	18	5	7	42	16
O'Neill, Paul	L-L	6-4	215	29	Cincinnati	.256	.346	532	71	136	36	0	28	91	12
Pueschert, Craig	R-R	6-3	160	21	A	.230	.314	348	50	80	13	0	11	52	10
Roberts, Bip	S-R	5-7	160	28	San Diego	.281	.342	424	66	119	13	3	3	32	26
Sanders, Reggie	R-R	6-1	180	24	AA	.315	.394	302	50	95	15	8	8	49	15
					Cincinnati	.200	.200	40	6	8	0	0	1	3	1

Coaches — John McLaren; Jackie Moore; Tony Perez; Sam Perlozzo; Larry Rothschild

ATLANTA BRAVES

1991 RECORD: 94-68 MANAGER: BOBBY COX STADIUM: FULTON COUNTY (52,007)

5-YEAR SCAN



Atlanta Braves general manager John Schuerholz fancies himself a go-getter. He thinks it's important to take the initiative, in spite of the inherent risks. And no trade is risk-free. Schuerholz is the guy who traded David Cone from Kansas City to the Mets for catcher Ed Hearn, remember?

So it was a little strange to see Schuerholz passively standing by while fellow National League West general managers Bob Quinn, Al Rosen, Joe Mcllvaine and Fred Claire were trading up a storm at the winter meetings in Miami.

Said Schuerholz: "Everybody goes through a similar process after the season. You evaluate your talent, look at what your needs are, and try to determine which teams you best match up with. We did all of that. We just weren't as driven to make moves as some other clubs. We had a pretty good year."

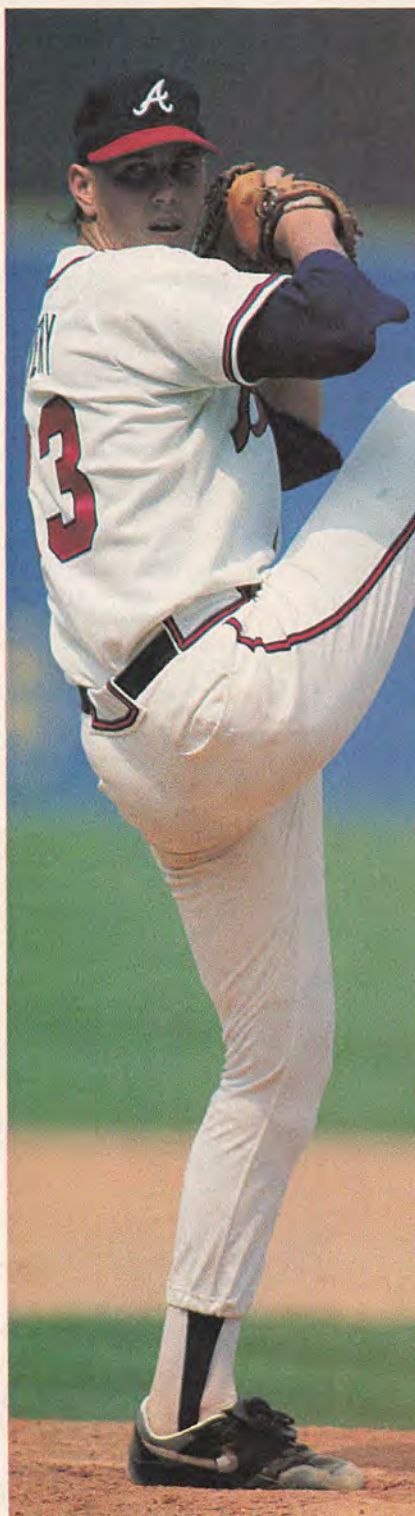
Talk about understatement. The Braves, a running joke from 1985-90, returned to respectability with a bullet. They outlasted the Dodgers to win the NL West, beat Pittsburgh in seven games in the playoffs, and came within a Lonnie Smith base-running gaffe of beating Minnesota in the World Series.

When the tomahawks stopped chopping and reality set in, Schuerholz didn't see a lot that needed to be done. The Braves expressed some interest in free agents Wally Joyner, Mike Morgan and Kurt Stillwell, but ultimately passed. In Miami, Schuerholz observed, "Our No. 1 priority is keeping our own people."

Repeating is almost an impossibility in the '90s, but the Braves have enough young talent to contend for years. Outfielders David Justice and Ron Gant and pitchers Tom Glavine, Steve Avery and John Smoltz, the nucleus of the club, are years from free agency. Top prospects Ryan Klesko, Chipper Jones, Mike Kelly and Javier Lopez are on the way.

Mention baseball in Atlanta, and nobody laughs anymore.

PITCHING The Braves last season ranked third in the NL in ERA (3.49) and tied



Steve Avery

for first in complete games (18) and fewest hits allowed (1,304). Their success was due as much to good fortune as talent. Tom Glavine, Steve Avery, John Smoltz and Charlie Leibrandt didn't miss a start, combining for 141 appearances and a 67-45 record — a large reason why the Braves were the only club in the majors not to lose more than four straight games. They have the ability to put up similar numbers this year. Yet if they manage to go two years in a row without suffering so much as a hangnail, the Braves can consider themselves extraordinarily lucky.

STARTING PITCHING Poor Tom Glavine. He carried the Braves last April, May and June, became the first Atlanta pitcher to win 20 since Phil Niekro in 1979, then was upstaged by Steve Avery, the poster boy for the Clearasil set, in October.

Glavine's 20-11 record — good enough to earn him the Cy Young Award — was attributable in large part to control. The smooth lefty located his fastball better than ever. One of his numbers makes no sense at first glance: Righties hit .206 against him, lefties .292. Glavine's excellent change-up is the explanation. It's anathema to righties. He didn't throw his curveball that often last year, and when circumstances required the pitch against lefties, it wasn't especially effective.

Glavine, who wore down in the fall and started getting his pitches up, tied for the NL lead in complete games (nine) and was second in innings (247). He finished third in ERA and strikeouts. A fine athlete, Glavine is a good fielder and dangerous with a bat in his hands.

Avery's most impressive accomplishment was convincing reporters he shaves every day. Really. He's such a kid at heart, he ran around the clubhouse spritzing shaving cream on his teammates after the Braves clinched the division title. But in a big game, the precocious lefthander is oblivious to pressure.

Avery throws two fastballs, a two-seamer with tailing action and a four-seamer with a hop to it. He relied on his change-up early last year, then went more with the hard stuff as the season progressed. Avery's curveball is very good. He just hasn't thrown it with the requisite consistency yet. At 6-4, 190 pounds, Avery has the size and stamina to be a horse. Like Glavine, he has a fluid motion and works quickly. The only thing he needs to improve is his pickoff move.

Righthander John Smoltz drummed up plenty of business for Dr. Jack Llewellyn, the noted sports psychologist, with his second-

half turnaround. Smoltz went 2-11 with a 5.16 ERA before the All-Star break, 12-2, 2.63 in the second half. The numbers lend credence to the perception that Smoltz can be as good as he wants. When focused and in sync, he's unhittable. When distracted, the wheels occasionally come off the cart.

Smoltz has a dominating fastball with good life down in the zone and a hard breaking ball that looks like a hybrid slider-curve (slurve). His stuff has enough downward movement to keep a catcher busy. Smoltz led the NL in wild pitches (20).

Veteran lefthander Charlie Leibrandt provides a nice complement to Atlanta's three young guns. Translation: While they throw heat, he throws slop. Leibrandt uses his circle change to set up his fastball, and comes inside just enough to keep hitters honest. He's at his best

working off the outside edge of the plate, enticing righthanded hitters to pull him.

Leibrandt has little margin for error, so he's more effective outside Fulton County Stadium. He went 6-8 with a 4.35 ERA at home, 9-5, 2.81 on the road. Opponents batted .271 against him in Atlanta, .225 on the road.

When the Braves acquired righthander Mike Bielecki from Chicago, there was speculation they might use him as a spot starter/long reliever. Don't count on it. Bielecki had problems in Chicago because the Cubs tried to use him in too many roles. He lacks the resiliency to pitch three times a week, and it takes him too long to warm up. If used properly, Bielecki is a capable No. 4 or 5 starter. To be successful, he needs to stay grooved mechanically and get his quick-breaking slider over.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

RELIEF PITCHING The Braves did the bullpen-by-committee bit on their way to a division title. Eight relievers contributed at least one save, and the pen finished with a 22-19 record, 3.58 ERA, and 48 saves in 57 opportunities.

The Braves have depth in relief. They don't have a Lee Smith or Rob Dibble, and the two who come closest — righthanders Juan Berenguer and Alejandro Pena — have spotty resumes. Pena, acquired in a late-August trade with the Mets, was an absolute steal. He went 2-0 with 11 saves in 11 opportunities, and contributed three saves against Pittsburgh in the playoffs. Pena's approach consisted of fastballs, fastballs and more fastballs. On the downside, he has trouble pitching on consecutive days, and as awesome as his performance was down the stretch, he's been a No. 2 guy most of his career. But at 32, Pena is throwing harder than ever.

Berenguer, Atlanta's first-half stopper, went on the disabled list in August because of a broken right forearm. The Braves hope he will be ready for spring training, but Berenguer is 37, and at 5-11, 223 pounds, is no Adonis. Once a flamethrower,

Berenguer has learned to adjust when he doesn't have his prime-time fastball. He converted 17 of 18 save opportunities, and was effective right down the line. He allowed only one of 25 inherited runners to score, and retired 39 of 47 (83 percent) first batters faced. Berenguer likes to come in high and tight, and induces a lot of popups and fly balls with his fastball and change.

Mike Stanton, christened the Braves' closer of the future three years ago, nearly burned out on overuse in 1989. But judging from his performance last season, he is all the way back from shoulder trouble. The lefthander set an Atlanta rookie record with 74 appearances in 1991, and should have been more of a factor in rookie of the year balloting. Stanton relies on a fastball with good tailing action and a quick, biting slider. He throws across his body, so lefthanded batters, in particular, have trouble picking up his pitches, hitting but .194 against him last year. Stanton has the guts and aggressive mentality of a closer. First batters hit .171 (12 for 70) against him.

Righthander Mark Wohlers' fastball travels in the 98-100-mph range. At 22, he's developing quite a reputation for turning bats into kindling. Wohlers' major problem is that he's a one-pitch pitcher. His slider has promise, but he doesn't throw it consistently enough for strikes to prevent hitters from sitting on the fastball.

Lefty Kent Mercker has a live arm, but is searching for a niche. He lacks the control (35 walks in 73 innings) and the maturity to close. If Mercker plans to crack the rotation, he will have to add another pitch to his fastball/slider repertoire. At 24, he needs innings more than anything.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

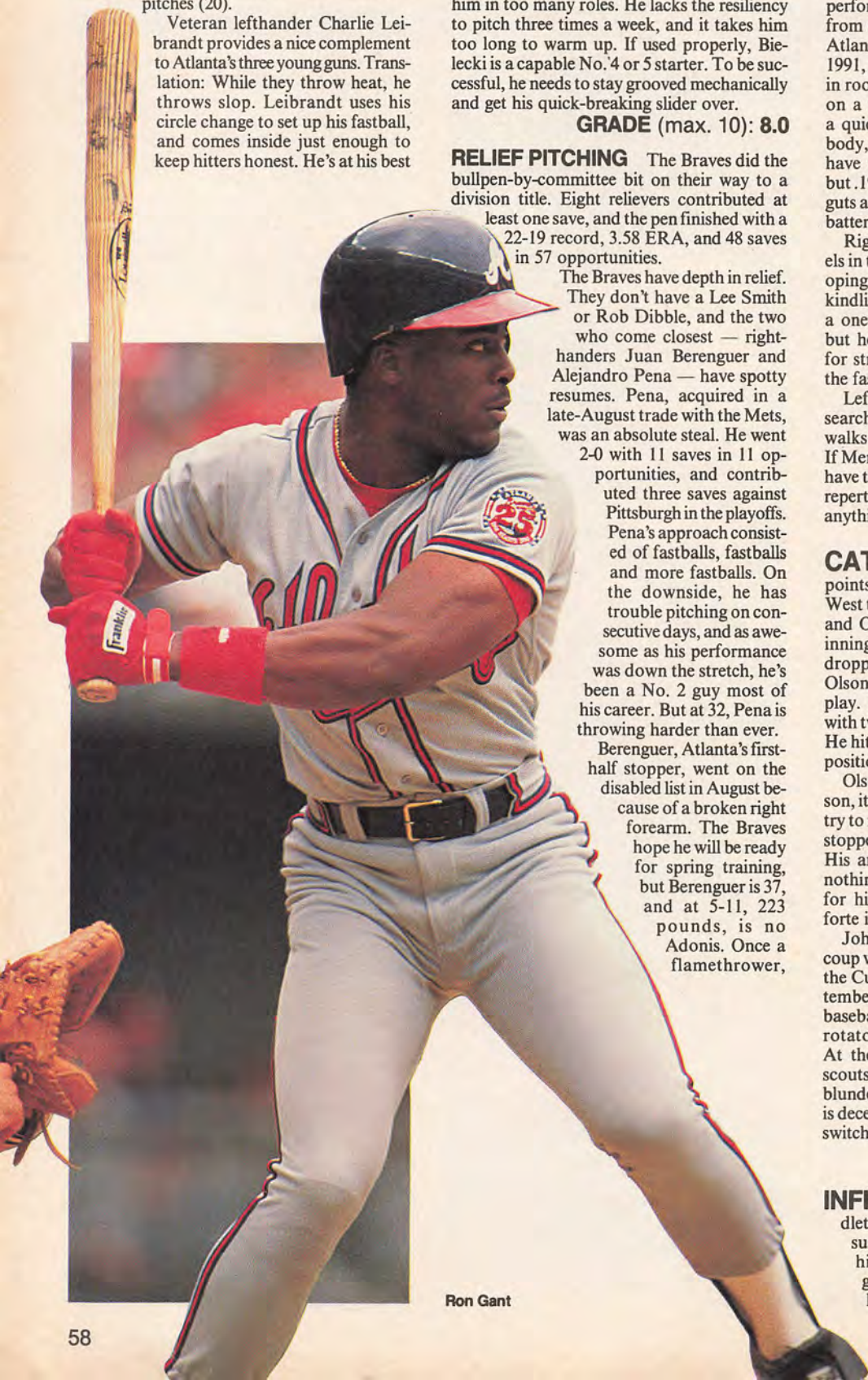
CATCHING Greg Olson won a lot of points for grit in the Braves' drive to the NL West title. In a span of 32 games in September and October, Olson appeared in all but two innings. Little wonder his batting average dropped from .260 to .241 in the final month. Olson is a smart hitter who puts the ball in play. He's a good guess hitter, particularly with two strikes, and a tough out in the clutch. He hit .373 (19 for 51) with runners in scoring position and two outs.

Olson was so tuckered out by the postseason, it's a wonder the Pirates and Twins didn't try to run on him more. During the season, he stopped only 22 of 108 runners from stealing. His arm strength, accuracy and release are nothing special, so pitchers have to be vigilant for him to have a fighting chance. Olson's forte is calling a game.

John Schuerholz might have pulled off a coup when he acquired Damon Berryhill from the Cubs, along with Mike Bielecki, last September. Berryhill, 28, was considered one of baseball's premier young catchers before a rotator cuff injury put his career on hold. At the moment, he's a mystery. But some scouts think he's almost back, and the Cubs blundered by letting him go. While his defense is decent, Berryhill's strength is his bat. He's a switch-hitter with some pop.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

INFIELD It's hard to knock Terry Pendleton, after his MVP year, but the consensus is he will be hard-pressed to duplicate his 1991 performance. Pendleton is a good, solid player. But no one expected him to rank in the top 10 in nine offen-



Ron Gant

sive categories. Why the dramatic increase in production? Pendleton's health was one factor. He was prone to leg injuries in St. Louis, and no doubt benefited from playing 120 games on grass. One scout observed that Pendleton was a step quicker on the basepaths last season, though he's still no burner.

Pendleton is a low-ball hitter from the left side, a high-ball hitter from the right side, and a tough out both ways. He hit .340 at home, .299 on the road, .328 lefty, .299 righty, .326 on grass, .300 on turf, and .320 with runners in scoring position. Talk about consistency.

The majority of Pendleton's 24 errors came on throws. He has a tendency to "goose" the ball before he releases it. But he's adept at charging balls and making the backhand play down the line.

No one can deny that first baseman Sid Bream is a class guy and a leader in the clubhouse. But four knee operations have exacted a terrible price on him. He's so limited physically, it's almost painful to watch. Last season, Bream hit .288 with 9 homers and 34 RBIs in 59 games before suffering a right knee injury on June 18. Upon his return after surgery, he went .188-2-11 in 32 games. Bream is a guess hitter who takes more pitches with men on base. He's skilled at picking balls in the dirt and starting the 3-6-3 double play, but damaged legs have robbed him of mobility.

Brian Hunter likely will play more of a featured role at first this season, if he can keep his name off the police blotter. Hunter was arrested twice last fall for driving under the influence, and was required to enter a counseling program. Scouts love Hunter's raw power. A dead pull hitter, he can really turn on a fastball over the middle half of the plate. He is susceptible to off-speed stuff and fastballs away, and needs to realize that it isn't a crime to drive the ball to right field. Defensively, Hunter has good hands and instincts.

Second baseman Mark Lemke surprised everyone with his punch in the postseason, but has yet to establish himself as a full-time player. However, as a former 27th-round draft pick, he's used to proving people wrong. Lemke, a switch-hitter, is a first-pitch fastball hitter who will shorten up with two strikes. Curveballs have been the bane of his major league life. Lemke defines the word "gamer."

and excels on the double play. His range is ordinary.

After Lemke's postseason coming-out party, there was speculation the Braves might trade Jeff Treadway, who batted .320 and struck out only 19 times in 306 at-bats last season. He has a nice, compact stroke, and hits line drives to all fields. Treadway's shortcomings are with the glove. Plus, he missed time last year with everything from a sore hamstring to a sore hand to a prolonged case of the flu.

If the Braves could combine Rafael Belliard and Jeff Blauser into a single package, they would have a well-rounded shortstop. Belliard turns out into outs. He knows the hitters and his pitchers, and always is in position to throw. Offensively, he doesn't scare anyone.

Blauser, who hit .305 against lefties in '91, has a quick bat. He sprays line drives and pulls for surprising power. Yet play him every day at shortstop and his defense will catch up with him. A sore elbow didn't help his throwing last season. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

OUTFIELD Rightfielder David Justice is self-assured enough to countenance a little animosity now and then. He's a bright, opinionated guy, but some baseball people think he's a tad too infatuated with David Justice.

Yet it's hard to argue with Justice's production. Despite missing nearly two months last season because of a back injury, Justice put up impressive numbers. He averaged an RBI every 4.55 at-bats, second in the NL to Barry Bonds, and hit .347 with runners in scoring position. When a game is on the line, Justice wants to be in the batter's box.

For all the emphasis on his postseason gaffes — most notably, a throwing error and failure to touch third in the playoffs — Justice is a pretty sound player fundamentally. And with that bat, who cares? Justice can hit the outside pitch the opposite way, and is a decent high-ball hitter. The best strategy is to throw him junk and make him generate his own power. But if a pitcher throws Justice too much off-speed stuff, he will adjust.

Ron Gant is carving a niche as a perennial member of the 30-30 club. He joined Willie Mays and Bobby Bonds last year as the only players to hit 30 homers and steal 30 bases in

consecutive seasons.

Gant is a dead pull hitter. Of his 126 hits to the outfield last season, 100 were to left. Gant has quick wrists and a short stroke, and annihilates fastballs from the middle of the plate in. Pitchers try to get him out with breaking stuff away, and work inside just enough to knock him off the plate. Gant is improving in center field, but his arm is short and he doesn't read line drives well.

Leftfielder Otis Nixon, suspended for 60 days for cocaine use during the Braves' pennant drive, will miss the first 18 games of the season while serving out his punishment. The Braves re-signed Nixon because he's a catalyst in the leadoff spot. Never much of a hitter in the minors, he finally has learned to bunt, slap the ball on the ground and make use of his speed. He has a weak arm, but chases down everything.

Nixon's signing confirmed the Braves don't have any plans for Lonnie Smith. He batted .275 last season, but can't run anymore and never could play defense.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

MANAGEMENT Bobby Cox, the 1991 NL Manager of the Year, makes a concerted effort to give everyone playing time, and never, ever rips his players in the papers. No wonder they respect him. Cox often vacillated during his tenure as general manager, but is a more forceful decision-maker in the dugout.

If not for the performance of Minnesota's Andy MacPhail, John Schuerholz would have been the '91 Executive of the Year. But a GM is only as good as what he did yesterday. If the Braves pull a fade, Schuerholz no doubt will take heat for standing pat over the winter. It is worth noting that Schuerholz left his previous club, the Kansas City Royals, in such sorry shape, they were forced to trade Bret Saberhagen in an attempt to be competitive this year.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

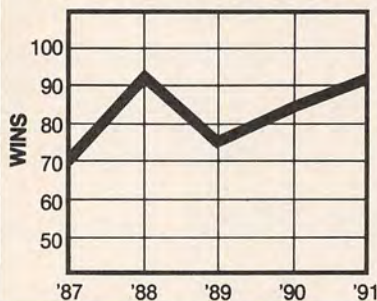
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PITCHERS															CATCHERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OAB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Avery, Steve	R-L	6-4	190	21	Atlanta	18-8	3.38	35	0	210	189	65	137	240	Olson, Greg	R-R	6-0	200	31	Atlanta	.241	.316	411	46	99	25	0	6	44	1	
Berenguer, Juan	L-R	5-11	223	37	Atlanta	0-3	2.24	49	17	64	43	20	53	.189	Willard, Jerry	L-R	6-2	195	32	AAA	.300	.343	277	42	83	24	0	8	39	1	
Bielecki, Mike	R-R	6-3	195	32	Chicago (NL)	13-11	4.46	41	0	174	171	56	75	.262					Atlanta	.214	.313	14	1	3	0	0	1	4	0		
					Atlanta	0-0	0.00	2	0	2	2	2	3	.286																	
Burlingame, Dennis	R-R	6-4	200	22	A	11-7	3.01	26	0	161	143	80	95	.246	INFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Freeman, Marvin	R-R	6-7	222	28	Atlanta	7-0	3.00	34	1	48	37	13	34	.214	Bellard, Rafael	R-R	5-6	160	30	Atlanta	.249	.296	353	36	88	9	2	0	27	3	
Glavine, Tom	L-L	6-1	190	26	Atlanta	20-11	2.55	34	0	247	201	69	192	.222	Blauser, Jeff	R-R	6-0	170	26	Atlanta	.259	.358	352	49	91	14	3	11	54	5	
Gomez, Pat	L-L	5-11	185	24	AAA-AA	7-11	3.11	29	0	162	157	72	112	.259	Bream, Sid	L-L	6-4	220	31	Atlanta	.293	.313	265	32	67	12	0	11	45	0	
Leibrandt, Charlie	R-L	6-3	200	35	Atlanta	15-13	3.49	36	0	230	212	56	128	.245	Carabello, Ramon	S-R	5-7	150	22	A	.250	.312	444	73	111	13	4	6	52	53	
Mercker, Kent	L-L	6-2	195	24	Atlanta	5-3	2.58	50	6	73	56	35	62	.211	Castilla, Vince	R-R	6-1	175	24	AAA	.225	.271	240	25	54	7	4	7	36	36	
Murray, Matt	L-R	6-6	200	21	A	1-0	1.29	2	0	7	5	1	7	.192					Atlanta	.200	.200	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Nied, David	R-R	6-2	175	23	AA-A	15-6	2.01	28	0	170	125	43	178	.202	Hunter, Brian	R-L	6-0	195	24	AAA	.260	.301	181	28	47	7	0	10	30	3	
Pena, Alejandro	R-R	6-1	203	32	New York (NL)	6-1	2.71	44	4	63	63	19	49	.267					Atlanta	.251	.296	271	32	68	16	1	12	50	0		
					Atlanta	2-0	1.45	11	19	11	3	13	.167	Lemke, Mark	S-R	5-9	167	26	Atlanta	.234	.305	269	36	63	11	2	2	23	1		
Reynoso, Armando	R-R	6-0	186	25	AAA	10-6	2.61	22	0	131	117	39	97	.241	Pendleton, Terry	S-R	5-9	195	31	Atlanta	.319	.363	586	94	187	34	8	22	86	10	
					Atlanta	2-1	6.17	6	0	23	26	10	40	.299	Treadway, Jeff	L-R	5-11	170	29	Atlanta	.320	.368	306	41	98	17	2	3	32	2	
Rivera, Ben	R-R	6-6	210	23	AA	11-8	3.57	26	0	159	155	75	116	.257	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Smith, Pete	R-R	6-2	200	26	AA	0-0	8.38	3	0	10	15	2	14	.349	Gant, Ron	R-R	6-0	172	27	Atlanta	.251	.338	561	101	141	35	3	32	105	34	
Smoltz, John	R-R	6-3	185	24	Atlanta	14-13	3.30	36	0	230	206	77	148	.243	Gregg, Tommy	L-L	6-1	190	28	Atlanta	.187	.275	107	13	20	8	1	1	4	2	
Stanton, Mike	L-L	6-1	190	24	Atlanta	5-5	2.88	74	7	78	62	21	54	.217	Justice, Dave	L-L	6-3	200	25	Atlanta	.275	.377	396	67	109	25	1	21	87	8	
Wohlers, Mark	R-R	6-4	207	22	AA-AAA	1-0	0.78	51	42	58	31	25	66	.167	Lyons, Steve	L-R	6-3	205	31	Boston	.241	.277	212	15	51	10	1	4	17	10	
					Atlanta	3-1	3.20	17	2	20	17	13	13	.239	Mitchell, Keith	R-R	5-10	180	22	AAA	.326	.380	95	16	31	6	1	2	17	0	
																		Atlanta	.318	.392	66	11	21	0	0	2	5	3			
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td> <td>Nieves, Melvin</td> <td>S-R</td> <td>6-2</td> <td>186</td> <td>20</td> <td>A</td> <td>.264</td> <td>.397</td> <td>201</td> <td>31</td> <td>53</td> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> <td>25</td> <td>3</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Nieves, Melvin	S-R	6-2	186	20	A	.264	.397	201	31	53	11	0	9	25	3
Berryhill, Damon	S-R	6-0	205	28	Chicago (NL)	.189	.244	159	13	30	7	0	5	14	1	Nixon, Otis	S-R	6-2	180	32	Atlanta	.297	.371	401	81	119	10	1	0	26	72
					Atlanta	.000	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sanders, Deion	L-L	6-1	195	24	AAA	.262	.312	130	20	34	6	3	5	16	12
Cabrera, Francisco	R-R	6-4	193	25	AAA	.261	.331	119	22	31	7	1	7	24	0					Atlanta	.191	.270	110	16	21	1	2	4	13	11	
					Atlanta	.242	.284	95	7	23	6	0	4	23	0	Smith, Lonnie	R-R	5-9	170	36	Atlanta	.275	.377	353	58	97	19	1	7	44	9
Heath, Mike	R-R	5-11	180	37	Atlanta	.209	.250	139	4	29	3	1	1	12	0																
Lopez, Javier	R-R	6-3	185	21	A	.245	.294	384	43	94	14	2	11	51	10	Coaches —	Jim Beachamp; Pat Corrales; Clarence Jones; Leo Mazzone; Jimmy Williams; Ned Yost														

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

1991 RECORD: 93-69 MANAGER: TOM LASORDA STADIUM: DODGER (56,000)

5-YEAR SCAN



The Dodgers have gone three years without winning a division title, a genuine crisis for the spoiled folks in Chavez Ravine. It's the longest postseason absence in the Tommy Lasorda era, which spans 15 years. In fact, not since the Dodgers were blanked from 1967-73 have they gone longer without a whiff of the playoffs. In L.A., the land of the short attention span, three years is an eternity.

Never mind that the Dodgers got within smelling distance of the National League West title last season. Nine and a half games ahead of the Braves at the All-Star break, and two up with eight to play, L.A. finished a game back, eliminated on the next-to-last day of the season by the hated Giants.

The Dodgers won 93 games, surpassed only by division winners Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Minnesota. But second place is second place, and the club felt compelled to do something. That 1992 could be Lasorda's final season in the dugout merely added to the urgency. In Dodgerland, where pasta is prologue, there was but one thing to do: stir it up and try again.

The Dodgers locked up American League ERA runner-up Tom Candiotti with a four-year, \$15.5 million deal and retained Orel Hershiser with \$10 million over three years. They made little effort to keep Eddie Murray and lost him to the Mets, and saw 14-game winner Mike Morgan sign with the Cubs. But the headspinner came a month after the World Series. Tim Lincecum, a fixture in the rotation since 1988, and pitching prospect John Wetteland were dispatched to the Reds, and back came Kip Gross and — drumroll, please — Eric Davis. The Dodgers are banking on Davis to regain his 30/30 form of past years, unlike last season when 30/30 added up to the number of days he spent on the sideline.

In Davis, Darryl Strawberry and Brett Butler, the Dodgers have a formidable outfield. If Lasorda, 64, is to go out in a blaze of glory, he somehow has to get by with a makeshift infield of youngsters and journeymen, and hope the

Dodgers' customary pitching depth will overcome the losses of Belcher and Morgan.

PITCHING Just about any way you look at it, the Dodgers had the best staff in the league in 1991. Their team ERA of 3.06 was the lowest in the major leagues, and their 14 shutouts tied with Montreal for the most in the NL. They held opponents to a .241 average, second lowest in the league, and yielded two earned runs or fewer in 71 games (44 percent). The bullpen, which ranked last in the majors in saves (29) in 1990, racked up 39 saves and had the lowest ERA (3.09) in the majors. Belcher and Morgan will be missed, but how much? For all his great stuff, Belcher was a combined 19-18 over the past two years, while Morgan's 14-10 record in '91 was his first winning record in eight seasons.

STARTING PITCHING Who would have thought the Dodgers' list of worries would include Dominican right-hander Ramon Martinez? This is the guy who was absolutely dominating in 1990, going 20-6 with a 2.92 ERA and 223 strikeouts. This is the guy who won seven straight decisions from April 21 to May 24 last year, and reached the All-Star break with a 12-3 record, 2.54 ERA, four complete games and three shutouts. But just when it appeared that Martinez was going to sail to the Cy Young Award he barely missed in '90, trouble set in. There had been subtle warning signs — a sore elbow caused Martinez to leave an all-star team touring Japan last winter — but the Dodgers saw no need to heed them. As it turned out, Martinez may have been paying for the elbow injury all season. His smooth mechanics became disjointed, his arm weakened, and after he was hit in the right bicep by a batted ball in August, he wasn't close to the Ramon of old. In the second half, Martinez went 5-10 with a 4.15 ERA, and from Aug. 1 on was 3-8, 5.50. Overall, his numbers were respectable, but in the same number of starts as 1990 (33) he had 73 fewer strikeouts and an ERA 35 points higher.

Just 24, Martinez is young enough to bounce back to even loftier heights. When fit, he has good movement on a 93-mph fastball (87-88 mph in the second half last year) and a Mario Soto-style circle change that falls away from lefthanded hitters.

Speaking of bouncing back, Orel Hershiser conducted a clinic on the subject last year. Hershiser's career was in jeopardy when Dr. Frank Jobe reconstructed his anterior capsule and tightened the ligaments in his right shoulder in April 1990, an operation that had never been performed on a major league pitcher. Hershiser not only came back, but was a productive member of the staff last sea-



Ramon Martinez



Brett Butler

son, going 7-2 with a 3.46 ERA in 21 starts. He finished with six straight wins, and the Dodgers were 16-5 in games he started. His velocity, noticeably down in early appearances, increased as the season progressed, and so did the movement on his pitches. Nevertheless, Hershiser's fabled hard sinker and biting curve never again will be as formidable as before the injury. He will have to compensate with location and guile. Yet considering Hershiser's brains and heart, Jobe soon could be boasting about "Orel Hershiser" surgery as proudly as his "Tommy John" procedure.

Candiotti, 34, has six consecutive seasons of 200-plus innings behind him. That means he has only about, oh, 10 more seasons ahead of him before the strain of throwing the floater burns out his right arm. What separates Candiotti from other knuckleballers is his ability to mix in a big, slow hook and show a credible fastball on occasion. Of course, the knuckleball itself separates Candiotti from every other pitcher in the NL, where hitters haven't faced a bona fide knuckleballer since Joe Niekro left the Astros seven years ago. During a spring training game last year, Cubs hitters were so frustrated by Candiotti's dancier than many took batting practice while the game was in progress so as not to mess up their strokes.

Bob Ojeda should be back in the rotation, which right away is an upset. Ojeda threatened to exercise his right to demand a trade if he didn't get a long-term contract (the Dodgers didn't oblige, and Ojeda bit his lip), then blasted management for "arrogance" when Eddie Murray wasn't re-signed. However, the Dodgers need Ojeda as much as he needs them. With Fernando Valenzuela out of the

picture, he is the only proven lefthanded starter around and, more important, is still effective. "He could hit you in the nose and not make it bleed, but he uses his fastball right, shows you his breaking ball, and has that great change," said a scout.

Righthander Kevin Gross has the inside track on the fifth spot in the rotation. If he self-destructs out of the blocks, Kip Gross or Ramon Martinez's precocious brother, Pedro, could sneak in. Kevin Gross lost his starting job, and nearly his sanity, with a 1-3, 8.27 showing in the first month last season. He eventually settled, reluctantly but fairly comfortably, into a role as a long man/spot starter. "I thought he'd be a better pitcher, a tougher pitcher," said a scout. "He doesn't throw as hard anymore, and that big curve has flattened out a lot."

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

RELIEF PITCHING Jay Howell is 36 and deteriorating rapidly. Two years ago, it was an injury to his left knee that hampered his season, and last year it was a bum right elbow. Howell appeared in 44 games, his fewest since 1987, and had just 16 saves for the second year in a row. He remains a power pitcher, but some of the electricity is gone. Howell's fastball was clocked in the upper 80s last season, and his sharp-breaking curve has given way to a big, rolling model.

The Dodgers have options if Howell isn't up to closing. They acquired righthander Roger McDowell from the Phillies late last July, and he was highly reliable down the stretch. McDowell gave the Dodgers a 6-3 record, 7 saves and a 2.55 ERA. His strength is a wicked sinker that one scout hails as "probably the best sinker anyone has ever thrown in the National League." McDowell runs into trouble when he falls in love with the sinker, and leaves his slider up in the strike zone. Though he has a resilient arm, McDowell won't hold up if Tommy Lasorda falls into a habit of using him more than two innings an appearance.

Righthander Jim Gott, back to throwing nearly 90 mph after elbow surgery in '89, also can be called on for occasional closing duty. After the All-Star break last year, Gott was 3-0 with a 2.66 ERA, and finished with 73 strikeouts in 76 innings. However, going to Gott with runners on base poses a problem. In those situations, he's reluctant to use his best pitch, a sharp-breaking forkball.

Tim Crews, who gets hitters out with breaking stuff, is an adequate setup man from the right side, and Steve Wilson looks as if he could be the same thing from the other side. The Dodgers picked up Wilson in September after he was released by the Cubs, and he nearly saved the pennant for them. In 11 games, he didn't allow an earned run, picked up two saves, and held opponents to a .042 average. Wilson depends primarily on a tailing fastball and nice straight change. Lefty John Candelaria still appears to be anathema to lefthanded hitters. They batted .138 against him last season. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

CATCHING Mike Scioscia has given the Dodgers quality work behind the plate for 12 years, but all that crouching and all those body-jarring collisions (123 at last count) have taken a toll. "He's still as good a catcher as there is in the National League this side of Santiago," said a scout. "But time is catching up to him. He didn't lose one step, he lost two

or three — and he couldn't afford to lose any." Scioscia also is losing some zip on his throws, stopping fewer than 30 percent of the runners who tried to steal on him last season.

This is not to say Scioscia is washed up. At 33, he is relatively young and can get by on savvy for the time being. Pitchers love throwing to him, he can do some damage with the bat, and he is a positive presence in the clubhouse. Remember this, however: Scioscia's contract is up at the end of the season, and the Dodgers are wild about prospect Carlos Hernandez, who hit .345 for Triple-A Albuquerque and threw out runners at a 45-percent clip. Hernandez will back up Scioscia this year and slowly be groomed as the new No. 1 man.

The Dodgers signed free agent Don Wakamatsu from the White Sox organization, and he might make the team as Tom Candiotti's designated catcher. The Dodgers were impressed with Wakamatsu's work with Charlie Hough in Chicago. If the knuckler proves too elusive for Scioscia, it could open a door for Wakamatsu. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

INFIELD For a team that fancies itself a contender, the Dodgers' infield certainly is an unsettled mess. As it looks now, Todd Benzing will replace Eddie Murray at first, Juan Samuel will be the reluctant incumbent at second, Jose Offerman will take over for Alfredo Griffin at short, and Dave Hansen or Lenny Harris or Mike Sharperson or Jeff Hamilton, or maybe Don Rickles, will play third. That's four potential big headaches for Tommy Lasorda.

Speaking of potential, Offerman has lots of it. The Dodgers just know he's going to be one of the league's best shortstops any day now. But so far, every time he's put on a Dodgers uniform, Offerman has performed inconsistently. Two years ago, the switch-hitting Dominican batted .326 for Albuquerque but .155 in a 29-game trial in Los Angeles. Last season, the Dodgers decided to bring Offerman along slowly, starting him out in the minors. He did just fine at Triple-A, hitting .298, but in two separate stints with the Dodgers again didn't cut it, batting .195 in 52 games and making 10 errors. Lasorda was thoroughly exasperated with Offerman's performance, and when the youngster made two errors in a key September game against the Giants, Darryl Strawberry gently suggested that Offerman was not ready for the heat of a pennant race.

This year, the Dodgers don't have much choice. Offerman, 23, will be given the short-stop job to make of it what he will. Scouts rave about his fluid actions afield, strong arm and explosive speed on the bases. While his line-drive bat eventually should come around, there are legitimate concerns whether his damaged psyche can survive the pressures of La-La Land.

When Murray signed with the Mets — the Dodgers refused to offer anything more than a one-year deal — Fred Claire toyed publicly with the idea of moving Kal Daniels to first base. That elicited the same sort of snickers as last year's talk about Strawberry playing center. Yet first base is as close to DH as it gets in this league, and Kalvoski Daniels, bad knees and all, can flat hit. Enduring the physical demands of the infield is the problem.

Benzinger, acquired from Kansas City in December, is the favorite to replace Murray. But Benzinger's most productive year (17 homers, 76 RBIs for Cincinnati in '89) stacks

up with Daniels' poor '91 (17 homers, 73 RBIs). Last year the switch-hitting Benzinger had 3 home runs and 51 RBIs in 416 at-bats between Cincinnati and Kansas City. Maybe rookie Eric Karros can win the job, or part of it. The 6-4, 205-pound Karros has hit .300 at every level, yet concerns exist about his lack of power. He was dropped by his winter ball club in Venezuela after going 7 for 81.

He's baaack! The Dodgers again offered Samuel arbitration, and again he accepted. They could do worse. In the first half last season, Samuel was an offensive machine, batting .313 with 9 homers, 43 RBIs and 12 stolen bases, and making the All-Star team for the third time. He didn't go consecutive games without a hit until July 23 and 24. Although the free-swinging Samuel slipped dramatically in the second half (.224, 3 homers, 15 RBIs, 11 stolen bases), few second basemen can match his exciting offense.

Most play better defense than Samuel. While he has good range, especially to his left, his hands are stiff and he's inefficient turning the double play. Nobody can accuse him of not playing hard, though.

Neither Harris nor Sharperson is capable of being an everyday player, but they were a decent platoon at third base last season. Harris, who bats lefthanded, is a first-pitch fast-ball hitter who puts the ball in play (32 strikeouts in 429 at-bats last year). In the field, he has an ultra-quick first step, but careless hands. He also is prone to base-running blunders. Sharperson isn't as versatile an athlete as Harris, but handles himself comfortably at second and third. An adept bat-handler with occasional pop, Sharperson hit .323 against lefties last season.

Hansen, who made an impression with 10 pinch-hits last season, is a distinct possibility at third. He has a nice line-drive stroke from the left side and digs in against lefties. Perhaps most important, Lasorda loves the kid. Hamilton, who's missed most of the past two seasons because of injuries, could figure, too.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

OUTFIELD In the Dodgers' dreams, Darryl Strawberry and Eric Davis will be good for about 80 homers, 200 RBIs and an intimidation factor set at full throttle. In their night-

mares, the pair will degenerate into a cesspool of bad shoulders, gimpy knees, sore kidneys, questionable attitudes and an alarming tendency to be missing in action for long stretches of time.

Strawberry's first season with the Dodgers was a page right out of his Mets book: impressive statistics combined with an unmistakable feeling he could have done much more. His first half was painful. Hampered much of the time by an inflamed left shoulder, Strawberry was batting .229 at the break, with 8 homers and 30 RBIs. Yet, he turned on the power switch in the second half (.280, 20 homers, 69 RBIs) and carried the Dodgers down the stretch.

Strawberry, who has a pronounced uppercut, murders fastballs down and over the plate. For that reason, pitchers feed him a lot of breaking balls and stay away with hard stuff. When he's in a groove, Strawberry takes the outside pitch deep to left. When he's not, he lifts lazy fly balls to center. Defensively, Strawberry suffers from concentration lapses and, while he has a great arm, never throws anyone out.

When healthy, Davis displays terrific all-around tools. From '86 to '90, he averaged 30 homers, 90 RBIs and 41 stolen bases. Yet last season, the brittle Davis claimed he was bothered by the effects of the lacerated kidney he suffered during Game 4 of the 1990 World Series. It wasn't an ailment that anyone could put a finger on, just a vague fatigue that sidelined him off and on throughout the season, including most of August. Davis says he's healthy now, and this is the final year of his contract. That's good news for the Dodgers. The bad news is that he's missed an average of 40 games a season the past five years.

Davis is a natural centerfielder with great range and a strong arm, but is destined to play left to reduce the wear and tear on his fragile frame. Batting in front of Strawberry guarantees him good pitches to hit. Like Strawberry, he prefers the ball down in the zone. A hitch in his swing makes it difficult for him to catch up with high heat.

Brett Butler was marvelous in his first season with the Dodgers, making the All-Star team for the first time. When the Giants made the decision to let him walk as a free agent,

they justified it this way: As he got older, Butler would lose a step, thus losing the bunt singles and infield hits that always had padded his batting average. Oops. Butler, who will turn 35 in June, had 61 infield hits, including 21 bunts, on the way to a .296 average last year. The Dodgers' best leadoff man since Maury Wills, he led the NL in walks (108) and runs (112, most by a Dodger in 29 years), and was second in hits (182) and on-base percentage (.401). He stole 38 bases, had the longest hitting streak in the majors (23 games), and reached base via hit or walk in 143 of 161 games. Defensively, Butler went errorless in 161 games, an NL record.

If you're looking for a downside, it's a short list. Butler's arm is one of the weakest around. He was caught stealing 28 times, most in the majors, and hit just .229 in September/October. But that's quibbling. Here's the Butler resume: He's durable (150 or more games eight of the past nine seasons), scores runs (four straight years over 100, eight straight over 90) and is a fiery team leader.

Fourth outfielder Stan Javier hit .205 (.140 after the All-Star break) last season, but his defense remains a plus.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

MANAGEMENT General manager Fred Claire seems to gain confidence with each passing season, and he reacted to the Dodgers' second-place finish in '91 with a vengeance. Claire pulled the trigger on a blockbuster deal, shored up holes with smaller trades, landed a key free agent and retained another one. As long as he listens to his baseball advisers, he should do just fine.

Tommy Lasorda may be bowing out. His contract expires after this season, fueling speculation that Bill Russell will take over in '93. Russell will be managing Albuquerque this season, presumably preparing for the step up. Until the end, Lasorda will be hugging away, trying to cajole monster seasons from L.A. homeboys Eric Davis and Darryl Strawberry.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

T.Q.® 37.5

PITCHERS															INFELDERS																
	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA		B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Candelaria, John	R-L	6-6	225	38	Los Angeles	1-1	3.74	59	2	33	31	11	38	.252	Benzinger, Todd	S-R	6-1	190	29	Kansas City	.294	.338	293	29	86	15	3	2	40	2	
Candioti, Tom	R-R	6-2	200	34	Cleveland	7-6	2.24	15	0	108	88	28	86	.218						Cincinnati	.187	.244	123	7	23	3	2	1	11	2	
					Toronto	6-7	2.98	19	0	130	114	45	81	.236	Hamilton, Jeff	R-R	6-3	207	28	AAA	.000	.000	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Crews, Tim	R-R	6-0	195	31	Los Angeles	2-3	3.43	60	6	76	75	19	53	.256						Los Angeles	.223	.255	94	4	21	4	0	1	14	0	
Gott, Jim	R-R	6-4	220	32	Los Angeles	4-3	2.96	55	2	76	63	32	73	.223	Hansen, Dave	L-R	6-0	180	23	AAA	.303	.406	254	42	77	11	1	5	40	4	
Gross, Kevin	R-R	6-5	215	30	Los Angeles	10-11	3.58	46	3	116	123	50	95	.275						Los Angeles	.268	.293	56	3	15	4	0	1	5	1	
Gross, Kip	R-R	6-2	190	27	AA	5-3	1.98	40	5	48	41	20	51	.227	Harris, Lenny	L-R	5-10	205	27	Los Angeles	.287	.349	429	59	123	16	1	3	38	12	
					Cincinnati	6-4	3.47	29	0	86	93	40	40	.281	Karros, Eric	R-R	6-4	205	24	AAA	.316	.391	488	88	154	33	8	22	101	3	
Hershiser, Orel	R-R	6-3	190	33	Los Angeles	7-2	3.46	21	0	112	112	32	73	.259						Los Angeles	.071	.133	14	0	1	1	0	0	1	8	
Howell, Jay	R-R	6-3	220	36	Los Angeles	6-5	3.18	44	16	51	39	11	40	.213	Offerman, Jose	S-R	6-0	160	23	AAA	.298	.396	289	58	86	8	4	0	29	32	
Martinez, Pedro	R-R	5-11	150	20	A-AA-AAA	18-8	2.29	28	0	177	126	66	192	.201						Los Angeles	.195	.345	113	10	22	2	0	0	3	3	
Martinez, Ramon	R-R	6-4	173	24	Los Angeles	17-13	3.27	33	0	220	190	69	150	.229	Samuel, Juan	R-R	5-11	170	31	Los Angeles	.271	.328	594	74	161	22	6	12	58	23	
McAndrew, Jamie	R-R	6-2	190	24	AAA	12-10	5.04	28	1	155	167	76	91	.276	Sharperson, Mike	R-R	6-3	190	30	Los Angeles	.278	.355	216	24	60	11	2	2	20	1	
McDowell, Roger	R-R	6-1	182	31	Philadelphia	3-6	3.20	38	3	59	61	32	28	.266	Smith, Greg	S-R	5-11	170	25	AAA	.217	.262	161	25	35	3	2	0	17	11	
					Los Angeles	6-3	2.55	33	7	42	39	16	22	.257	OUTFIELDERS																
Ojeda, Bob	L-L	6-1	195	34	Los Angeles	12-9	3.18	31	0	189	181	70	120	.226	Butler, Brett	L-L	5-10	160	34	Los Angeles	.296	.401	615	112	182	13	5	2	38	38	
Opperman, Dan	R-R	6-2	175	23	AAA	5-4	5.95	11	0	59	74	34	32	.323	Daniels, Kal	L-R	5-11	205	28	Los Angeles	.249	.337	461	54	115	15	1	17	73	6	
Seanez, Rudy	R-R	5-10	185	23	AA-AAA	4-2	4.09	41	7	55	34	52	92	.178	Davis, Eric	R-R	6-3	185	29	Cincinnati	.235	.353	285	39	67	10	0	11	33	14	
					Cleveland	0-0	16.20	5	0	5	10	7	7	.385	Goodwin, Tom	L-R	6-1	165	23	AAA	.273	.349	509	84	139	19	4	1	45	48	
Wilson, Steve	L-L	6-4	195	27	AAA	3-8	3.87	25	0	114	102	45	83	.238						Los Angeles	.143	.143	7	3	1	0	0	0	1		
					Chicago (NL)	0-0	4.38	8	0	12	13	5	9	.277	Javier, Stan	S-R	6-0	185	28	Los Angeles	.205	.268	176	21	36	5	3	1	11	7	
					Los Angeles	0-0	0.00	11	2	7	1	4	5	.042	Mondesi, Raul	R-R	5-11	150	21	A-AA-AAA	.277	.315	328	58	91	17	8	8	39	17	
CATCHERS																															
Hernandez, Carlos	R-R	5-11	185	24	AAA	.345	.387	345	60	119	24	2	8	.44	Rodriguez, Henry	L-L	6-1	180	24	AAA	.271	.308	446	61	121	22	5	10	67	4	
					Los Angeles	.214	.250	14	1	3	1	0	0	1	Strawberry, Darryl	L-L	6-6	200	30	Los Angeles	.265	.361	505	86	134	22	4	28	99	10	
Scioscia, Mike	L-R	6-2	220	33	Los Angeles	.264	.353	345	39	91	16	2	8	.40	4	Webster, Mitch	S-R	6-1	185	32	Cleveland	.125	.200	32	2	4	0	0	0	0	2
Wakamatsu, Don	R-R	6-2	200	29	AAA	.213	.247	150	20	32	8	0	4	.19	0					Pittsburgh	.175	.245	97	9	17	3	4	1	9	0	
					Chicago (AL)	.226	.250	31	2	7	0	0	0	0						Los Angeles	.284	.361	74	12	21	5	1	1	10	0	

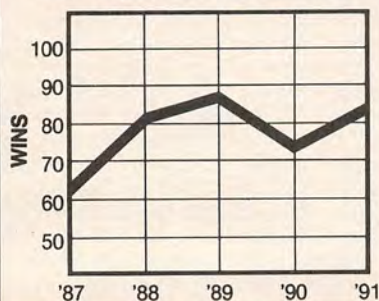
Coaches — Joe Amalfitano; Mark Cresse; Joe Ferguson; Ben Hines; Manny Mota; Ron Perraoski

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SAN DIEGO PADRES

1991 RECORD: 84-78 MANAGER: GREG RIDDOCH STADIUM: JACK MURPHY (59,022)

5-YEAR SCAN



It never has been a smooth ride for the Padres, no matter how hard they try. When original owner Ray Kroc became displeased with the team, he didn't seethe in silence; he grabbed the P.A. microphone and reamed out the players. When Dick Williams quit as manager amid one of many front office power struggles, he didn't walk quietly into the sunset; he resigned on the first day of spring training. When former general manager Chub Feeney was booed by fans, he didn't grin and bear it; he responded with a middle-finger salute for all the world to see. When Jack Clark was traded, he didn't make a graceful exit out of town; he called the manager a "back-stabbing snake."

GM Joe McIlvaine and manager Greg Riddoch, the current brain trust, would like to think they have brought stability and class to this once and future soap opera. Indeed, the 1991 season was notably devoid of the sort of bizarre occurrences that had become a Padres trademark — no Roseanne Barr National Anthems, no Goose Gossage "they're poisoning the world with their hamburgers" outbursts, no in-laws of the owners joining the front office. It was a nice, quiet, innocuous season, one in which the Padres finished a nice, quiet, innocuous third, 10 games out of first in the National League West. They made their patented "too-little, too-late" second-half charge, going 44-35 after the All-Star break.

Still, the Padres remain a melodrama waiting to happen. Riddoch, who must have the thickest skin in America, had to endure another round of scorching parting shots from former players, though none came close to matching the venom of Clark. If the Padres get off badly this year, Riddoch again will feel the heat.

So will McIlvaine, in the second year of a five-year contract. With the Braves a budding power, and the Reds and Dodgers looking like contenders, the Padres, whose only major acquisition was Randy Myers, don't appear to have done nearly enough to close the 10-

game gap. They could be in for a crash-and-burn, which if nothing else should make for an interesting season.

PITCHING Considering the obstacles — six pitchers on the disabled list, three of them twice — the Padres staff did all right in '91. The team 3.57 ERA was an 0.11 improvement over the previous year, and the bullpen increased its save total from 35 to 47. However, the Padres still need to find a way to keep the ball in the park. They led the NL in homers allowed (147) in 1990, and gave up more last season (139) than every other NL club except the Giants.

There is plenty of hope for this staff. In Andy Benes, the Padres may have the next great starter in the NL, and Randy Myers has been a quality closer in the recent past. The key for the Padres is consistent strides forward by their cadre of promising, but unproven, arms.

STARTING PITCHING Quick, now: Who was the best pitcher in baseball over the final two months of last season?

Benes, anyone?

Yes, a strong case could be made for right-hander Andy Benes, who was struggling along with a 4-10 record and 4.18 ERA after 18 starts. Padres management was losing patience, but bit its lip and turned down every trade offer for Benes, the first player drafted in 1988. You don't give up that quickly on an electric arm, in this case one that can deliver a fastball in the mid-90-mph range.

However, a couple of Benes' teammates, Bruce Hurst and Craig Lefferts, didn't bite their lips. They challenged Benes to quit moping, telling him it was high time he did something positive with all that talent. Whether it was their admonition, or his decision to pretty much abandon his erratic change-up, Benes was untouchable from late July through the end of the season, and the Padres had their first bona fide ace since, oh, never. In his final 15 starts, Benes went 11-1 with a 1.77 ERA, winning 10 straight decisions during one 12-start stretch. He limited batters to a .232 average, had 20 starts in which he gave up no more than two runs, and was seventh in the league in strikeouts per nine innings (6.7). Still raw despite his success, Benes needs more consistency with his breaking pitch to keep hitters from sitting on his heater.

The Padres have hopes for a Benes-like breakout from Greg Harris, whose switch from the bullpen to the rotation last year was sidetracked by a stretch of more than two months on the disabled list because of a sore right elbow. Harris still managed a 9-5 record and 2.23 ERA in 20 starts, and what the Padres saw after his arm became healthy excited them



Andy Benes

more than ever. Over his final 12 starts, Harris was 7-2 with a 1.88 ERA, including back-to-back 1-0 shutouts. At one point, he pitched 25 innings without yielding an earned run. Harris, who has one of the best curveballs in the league to go with an explosive 90-mph fastball, should become a big winner if his arm is up to the strain of starting.

The Padres have reason to worry about the left arm of Hurst, who in '91 was headed toward his first 20-win season before a sore elbow slowed him and eventually put him on the sideline. Hurst was 14-5 after 23 starts, 1-3 for his final eight. After lasting one inning against Houston on Sept. 17, Hurst packed it in for the season. Perhaps he is paying for a heavy workload — 200 or more innings for five consecutive seasons, and eight of the past nine. Sore elbow or not, Hurst worked six or more innings in 29 of his 31 starts. Lefties touched him for only a .176 average, and he averaged fewer pitches per batter (3.36) than all but two other NL starters. Hurst is the epitome of a finesse pitcher. He keeps hitters off-balance with a mid-80s fastball, big-breaking hook and deluxe palmball. He doesn't beat himself, and his pickoff move is among the best in the league.

The rest of the rotation is set in, well, sand. Certainly, righthander Ed Whitson, last year's Opening Day starter, will be a part of it as long as he's healthy. Whitson appeared in just 13 games last season, serving two stints on the disabled list because of an elbow injury that required arthroscopic surgery in July. Before his 4-6, 5.03 showing in 1991 (opponents hit .299), Whitson had been on a steady ascent. He had lowered his ERA in four straight seasons and averaged 13 victories in that span. Whitson, 36, is a gamer. Like Hurst, he throws strikes and changes speeds effectively. His best pitch is a slider.

The leading candidate to fill out the rotation is 23-year-old righthander Ricky Bones, who fools hitters with good off-speed stuff. He made 11 starts for the Padres last season, beginning with seven innings of two-hit, no-run work against the Reds. Perhaps the most impressive thing about Bones is his makeup. He will not be intimidated.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

RELIEF PITCHING It was a trade that first cropped up at the World Series but took until the winter meetings, six weeks later, to consummate. In the interim, innumerable throw-ins were discussed and dismissed. Alternative teams were explored, and the deal nearly died. At one point, a three-way swap was in the works. Finally, the Padres and Reds went back to their original premise: Bip Roberts and a minor leaguer to the Reds for lefthander Randy Myers, who will take over for Craig Lefferts in the Padres' continuing search to replace Mark Davis.

Not that the San Diego bullpen — or Lefters, for that matter — was awful last year. The relievers' 3.34 ERA was third best in the NL, and their 47 saves ranked fourth. But Lefters, for all his hustle and effort, is a setup man who was miscast as a closer. He saved 23 games for the second year in a row, but blew seven opportunities, and opponents hit him at a .285 clip. Once Myers was acquired, Lefters became expendable. Expect him to be used in a trade for infield or outfield help this spring.

Myers is coming off his worst year, a season in which fellow Nasty Boy Rob Dibble seized his closer's job. The tone was set on Opening

Day, when Myers entered in the ninth inning, with a man on base, trying to protect a lead. He walked two batters, Lou Piniella yanked him, Dibble got the save, and the Reds had a new closer. After 293 consecutive relief appearances and 93 saves, Myers was converted into a starter. He was 2-6 with a 3.45 ERA in his 12 starts, but the Reds scored just 11 runs in his losses. In 46 relief appearances, Myers was 4-7 with a 3.65 ERA and 6 saves, the fewest since his 1987 rookie season.

The Padres believe that Myers' live left arm is still sound; he struck out 108 in 132 innings, but walked 80. They are counting on renewed nastiness from him now that he is in his familiar role as a main man.

Righthander Larry Andersen, who turns 39 in May, is one of the funniest guys in baseball and remains an effective reliever. Despite two stints on the disabled list last season because of a herniated disk in his neck, Andersen notched a career-high 13 saves (16 opportunities) and limited righthanded batters to a .177 average. He hasn't given up a home run to a righty in two seasons. While Andersen shows an occasional sinker, he leans heavily on his slider.

The Padres feel they unearthed a couple of future standouts in righthanders Jose Melendez and Jeremy Hernandez. Melendez, claimed off waivers from Seattle after the 1990 season, has first-rate power stuff, including a 90-mph fastball with great sinking action and a hard slider. He appeared in 22 games in relief last year, earning three saves, compiling a 2.48 ERA and limiting batters to a .221 average.

Hernandez, promoted from the minors last September, made a lasting impression. In nine appearances, amounting to 14 innings, he didn't allow a run, gave up only eight hits and gained two saves. A converted starter, the 6-5 Hernandez turns away hitters with a heavy sinker. He could be closer material.

Righthander Mike Maddux and lefthander Rich Rodriguez tied for the team lead in appearances (64) last season. Neither lights up the radar gun. Maddux, who stranded 37 of 46 inherited runners, makes the most of what he has. A straight change is his best pitch. Rodriguez, who held lefties to a .219 average, effects good tailing action on an 88-mph fastball, but walked more than he struck out. He needs to improve his breaking pitch.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

CATCHING You'd think Benito Santiago would be the least of the Padres' worries. Here's a guy acknowledged to be the best in baseball at his position. He's an active, flexible receiver whose throwing arm sets the standard, and he hits for average and power. So why does he cause the Padres so many headaches? For one thing, Santiago continues to be a brooder. During a tempestuous 1991 season, he ripped the hometown fans, hinted that he wouldn't mind being traded, then requested a five-year contract from the Padres.

One scout blames the club for Santiago's discontent. "Managers have been fighting this guy from the first day he walked into camp," the scout said. "He's got more ability than all the other catchers put together. He needs someone to be positive with him."

Santiago bounced back from a broken arm in 1990 to launch 17 home runs last season, and contribute a career-high 87 RBIs. He hit .331 and had 36 RBIs in his final 40 games. Although his three-year hold on the Gold Glove was broken by Tom Pagnozzi, Santi-

ago had another stellar defensive season. He stopped 35 percent (43 of 123) of the runners who tried to steal against him, including 25 of 59 (42 percent) while throwing from his knees.

With Santiago catching 145 to 150 games, the Padres don't have a lot of work for a backup, which is fortunate. Tom Lampkin's principal asset is that he swings from the left side.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

INFIELD Fred McGriff will be at first, and Tony Fernandez at short. Those are givens. As for second and third, well, those are *misgivings*. With a truckload of mostly uninspiring candidates and several possible platoon situations, the combinations and permutations at work here could occupy an algebra class at San Diego State for days.

McGriff gave the Padres cause for concern in spring training last year when he went his first 70 at-bats without hitting a home run, and had just one long ball when Cactus League play ended. For a guy who averages a homer every 15.8 at-bats, this was a curious development. But the Padres were able to keep their sense of Yuma, and McGriff was his usual prolific self once the season started. He had 31 homers, his lowest total since 1987 but the most by a Padre since Dave Winfield's 34 in 1979. With 106 RBIs, McGriff reached triple figures for the first time in his career.

One wonders what McGriff might have accomplished had the Padres afforded him some protection in the order. He was third in the NL in walks (105), including a major league-high 26 intentional passes. A good low-fastball hitter, McGriff can leave any part of any yard. The book cautions pitchers to stay on his hands and off-speed him. Defensively, McGriff is average, at best.

Fernandez spent last season complaining about the turf at Jack Murphy Stadium, so the Padres replaced it during the offseason. In return, Fernandez is expected to cut down on the 20 errors he committed in 1991. Offseason surgery to repair a bad right thumb, which hampered him most of last year, should help. The quintessential Dominican shortstop, Fernandez makes the most difficult plays look routine. Yet his nonchalant actions and flip throws often send signals of indifference.

Fernandez hits for a higher average from the left side and has more sock righthanded. A skilled No. 2 hitter, he handles the bat very well from both sides. Last season Fernandez had the fewest extra-base hits (36) and RBIs (38) of his career, but was far from disappointing. He tied with Tony Gwynn for the team lead in doubles (27) and finished second to Bip Roberts in steals (23).

The revolving door continues at third base. Gone are Jim Presley and Jack Howell, the frauds who were tried last season. While Scott Coolbaugh is back, the Padres thought so much of him they left him off their 40-man roster. At the moment, Tim Teufel is the leading candidate. A jack-of-all-trades, Teufel lacks range at second and reactions at third, and has stiff hands wherever he plays. His bat is his asset, especially against lefthanders. As a Padre last season, Teufel hit .292 against lefties and .191 against righthanders, and had 11 home runs in 307 at-bats.

Five players, including Teufel, Craig Shipley and Paul Faries, made at least 10 starts at second base last season. As spring training approached, the job belonged to Shipley, the pride of New South Wales, Australia. We're not talking Ryne Sandberg here, folks. In 160

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Lynyrd Skynyrd Band—Skynyrd's Innards Greatest Hits (MCA) 381-129

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Jesus Jones—Doubt (SBK) 417-691

Ricky Van Shelton—Backroads (Columbia) 416-909

Ozzy Osbourne—No More Tears (Epic/Associated) 428-128

Public Enemy—Apocalypse 91. The Enemy Strikes Black (Del Jam/Columbia) 428-003

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Bette Midler—Some People's Lives (Atlantic) 411-934

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Toto—Past To Present 1977-1990 (Columbia) 411-371

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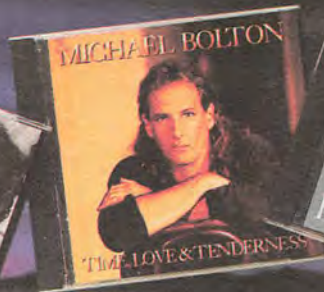
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Bonnie Raitt—Luck Of The Draw (Capitol) 423-186

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major league at-bats, Shipley has a .238 average and six extra-base hits. He committed seven errors in 33 games at second and short last year. Faries is steady at second, third and short, but hit a punchless .177 in '91. When he can steal first, he's a quick, instinctive baserunner. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

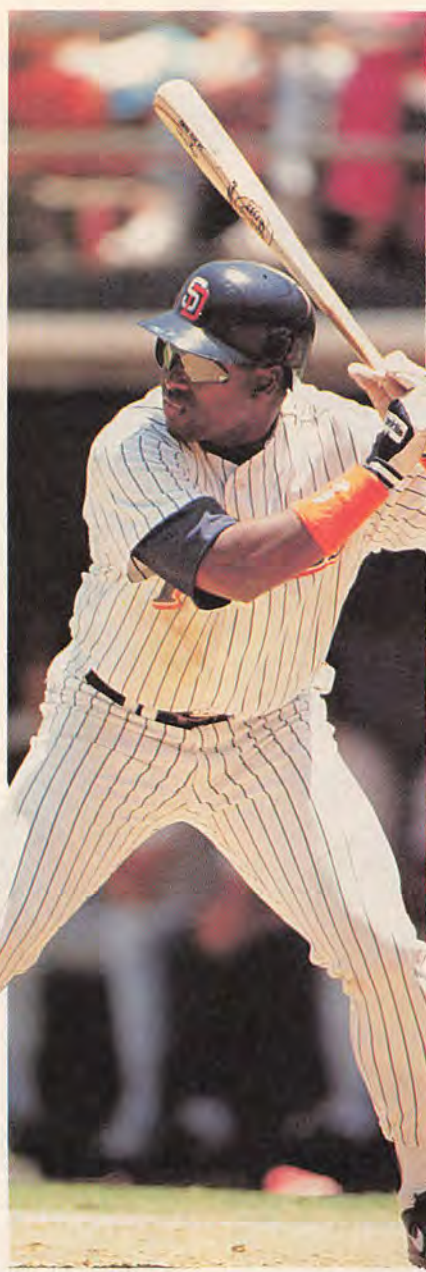
OUTFIELD Every time a star outfielder became available this past winter, the Padres immediately would be linked to him in media speculation. Eric Davis. Danny Tartabull. Bobby Bonilla. Barry Bonds. Ellis Burks.

None wound up in San Diego, leaving the Padres with the same problem as last year: No outfielders to count on except Tony Gwynn.

Unless someone better comes along, Jerald Clark and Thomas Howard likely will battle it out for left field. Both have impressive physical tools, but neither has done much with them. Clark has dynamite in his bat, but is disarmed by curveballs. After hitting nine home runs in his first 216 at-bats last season, he had one in his final 153. The switch-hitting Howard is the better defensive player, but hasn't shown enough pop or base-running prowess to justify giving him regular work.

Centerfielder Darrin Jackson broke from obscurity with a bang last season, launching 21 home runs in 359 at-bats (one every 17.1 trips). He proved he could turn around the best heat. But scouts aren't convinced that Jackson can wait on breaking stuff and make pitchers throw strikes. Good speed and arm strength are his pluses in the field. His jumps are ordinary, and he doesn't retreat very well.

Gwynn was on course for a monster of a 1991 season until a knee injury derailed him in the second half. Motivated by former teammate Jack Clark's accusations that he is a selfish player, Gwynn reached the break with a .358 average and 48 RBIs. He seemed a lock for his fifth batting title, and a strong candidate for his first MVP. But the second half was agony for Gwynn, who tried to ignore the pain in his left knee. By the time he



Tony Gwynn

submitted to arthroscopic surgery for repair of cartilage on Sept. 18, Gwynn's average had plummeted to .317. He ended up losing the batting title to Terry Pendleton by two points.

Gwynn's decision to play hurt wasn't the action of a selfish man, and his NL-leading .377 average with runners in scoring position muted talk that he isn't a clutch performer. When it comes to hitting, there isn't a more dedicated student than Gwynn. He has great bat control and makes constant adjustments. Despite winning his fifth Gold Glove last season, Gwynn may be riding on reputation. He positions himself intelligently and throws accurately, but his lateral range isn't what it used to be. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.5**

MANAGEMENT General manager Joe McIlvaine proved he could bust blocks with the best of them when he pulled off the monumental Joe Carter/Roberto Alomar for Fred McGriff/Tony Fernandez deal in December 1990. While that trade fueled the Hot Stove League and filled two holes for the Padres, it created two new holes, neither of which the Padres managed to plug last season. The Bip Roberts for Randy Myers exchange appears to be little different — another baseball equivalent of robbing Peter to pay Paul. While with the Mets, McIlvaine was accused of not having a master plan, and the same impression is forming in San Diego.

Judging by the merciless blasts from former players after the 1990 season, Padres manager Greg Riddoch didn't seem to have much touch for his job. But he managed to keep control of the clubhouse last season, and the Padres showed a nine-win improvement over 1990. Riddoch reportedly had received a commitment from new owner Tom Werner that he'd get a full season to show what he could do. Werner and McIlvaine might not be so patient this year if the Padres start slowly. The manager-in-waiting, Jim Riggleman, is just a 400-mile dice throw away, skipping Triple-A Las Vegas. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.5**

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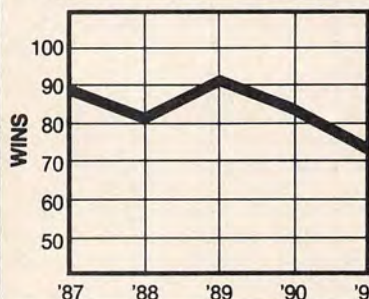
PITCHERS														INFELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Andersen, Larry	R-R	6-3	205	38	San Diego	3-4	2.30	38	13	48	39	13	40	232	Faries, Paul	R-R	5-10	170	27	A-AAA	.308	.376	117	22	36	4	3	1	17	8	
Benes, Andy	R-R	6-6	240	24	San Diego	15-11	3.03	33	0	223	194	59	167	232	San Diego	.177	.262	130	13	23	3	1	0	7	3						
Bones, Ricky	R-R	6-0	190	23	AAA	8-6	4.22	23	0	136	155	43	95	278	Fernandez, Tony	S-R	6-2	175	29	San Diego	.272	.337	558	81	152	27	5	4	38	23	
				San Diego	4-6	4.83	11	0	54	57	18	31	269	Gardner, Jeff	L-R	5-11	165	28	AAA	.292	.392	504	73	147	23	4	1	56	6		
Brocail, Doug	L-R	6-5	220	24	AA	10-7	3.87	34	6	146	147	43	108	259	New York (NL)	.162	.238	37	3	6	0	0	0	1	0						
Harris, Greg	R-R	6-2	195	28	San Diego	1-2	7.40	4	0	21	24	8	16	293	Holbert, Ray	R-R	6-0	170	21	A	.264	.364	386	76	102	14	2	4	51	19	
				San Diego	9-5	2.23	20	0	133	116	27	95	233	Lopez, Luis	S-R	5-11	175	21	AAA	.268	.305	452	43	121	17	1	1	41	6		
Hernandez, Jeremy	R-R	6-5	205	25	AAA	4-8	4.74	56	13	68	76	25	67	278	McGriff, Fred	L-L	6-3	210	28	San Diego	.278	.398	528	84	147	19	1	31	106	4	
				San Diego	0-0	0.00	9	2	14	8	5	9	157	Redington, Tom	R-R	6-1	200	23	AA	.284	.387	384	54	112	23	0	5	57	2		
Hurst, Bruce	L-L	6-3	220	34	San Diego	15-8	3.29	31	0	222	201	59	141	241	Shipley, Craig	R-R	6-1	185	29	AAA	.300	.340	230	27	69	9	5	5	34	2	
Lefferts, Craig	L-L	6-1	210	34	San Diego	1-6	3.91	54	23	69	74	14	48	285	Staton, Dave	R-R	6-5	215	23	AAA	.267	.346	375	61	100	19	1	22	74	1	
Lewis, Jim	R-R	6-2	215	27	AA-AAA	6-3	3.27	50	4	88	97	38	79	297	Teufel, Tim	R-R	6-0	175	33	New York (NL)	.118	.167	34	2	4	0	0	1	2	1	
				San Diego	0-0	4.15	12	0	13	14	11	10	275	Valentine, Jose	S-R	5-10	175	22	AA	.228	.334	307	39	70	16	0	11	42	8		
Linske, Mike	L-L	6-5	220	25	AA-AAA	7-10	4.90	26	0	158	195	54	96	321	Velasquez, Guillermo	L-R	6-3	220	23	AA	.295	.354	501	72	148	26	3	21	100	4	
Madoux, Mike	L-R	6-2	190	30	San Diego	7-2	2.46	64	5	99	78	27	57	221																	
Melendez, Jose	R-R	6-2	175	26	AAA	7-0	3.99	9	0	59	54	11	45	247																	
				San Diego	8-5	3.27	31	3	94	77	24	60	221																		
Myers, Randy	L-L	6-1	208	29	Cincinnati	6-13	3.55	58	6	132	116	80	108	242																	
Peterson, Adam	R-R	6-3	190	26	AAA	2-2	4.50	8	0	42	41	20	37	258																	
				San Diego	3-4	4.45	13	0	55	50	28	37	242																		
Rodriguez, Rich	R-L	6-0	200	29	San Diego	3-1	3.26	64	0	80	66	44	40	234																	
Seminara, Frank	R-R	6-2	205	24	AA	15-10	3.38	27	0	176	173	68	107	258																	
Valdez, Rafael	R-R	5-11	185	23	AAA	0-2	5.94	5	0	17	22	16	9	328																	
Whitson, Ed	R-R	6-3	200	36	San Diego	4-6	5.03	13	0	79	93	17	40	299																	
CATCHERS														OUTFIELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Blardello, Dann	R-R	6-0	190	32	AAA	.314	.351	140	17	44	13	1	4	29	2	L-L	6-1	195	27	San Diego	.296	.332	361	51	107	23	3	7	50	4	
				San Diego	.269	.345	26	4	7	2	1	0	5	0	San Diego	.246	.267	57	5	14	2	0	0	0	0	8	2				
Lampkin, Tom	L-R	5-11	185	28	AAA	.297	.362	128	17	38	9	0	1	22	2	R-R	6-4	205	28	San Diego	.229	.295	369	26	84	16	0	10	47	2	
				San Diego	.190	.230	58	4	11	3	1	0	3	0	Gwynn, Tony	L-L	5-11	215	31	San Diego	.317	.355	530	69	168	27	11	4	62	8	
Santiago, Benito	R-R	6-1	185	27	San Diego	.267	.296	580	60	155	22	3	17	87	8	Howard, Thomas	S-R	6-2	205	27	AAA	.309	.368	94	22	29	3	1	2	16	11
															San Diego	.249	.309	281	30	70	12	3	4	22	10						
															Jackson, Darrin	R-R	6-0	185	28	San Diego	.262	.315	359	51	94	12	1	21	49	5	
															Taylor, Will	R-R	6-2	170	23	AAA	.259	.336	468	82	121	11	5	4	33	62	
															Vatcher, Jim	R-R	5-9	175	25	AAA	.266	.355	395	67	105	28	6	17	67	4	
															San Diego	.200	.333	20	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1				
Coaches — Bruce Kimm; Rob Picciolo; Merv Rettenmund; Mike Roarick; Jim Snyder																															

Coaches — Bruce Kimm; Rob Piccoli; Merv Rettenmund; Mike Roarke; Jim Snyder

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

1991 RECORD: 75-87 MANAGER: ROGER CRAIG STADIUM: CANDLESTICK PARK (62,000)

5-YEAR SCAN



Giants president/general manager Al Rosen had a truly visionary master plan for the 1991 season. Free agents costing \$33 million were going to put the finishing touches on a solid but underachieving team that was in the World Series as recently as 1989. Bud Black would be a horse in the rotation, Dave Righetti would slam the door like the Rags of old, and defending batting champion Willie McGee would provide a seamless transition from the Brett Butler era in center field.

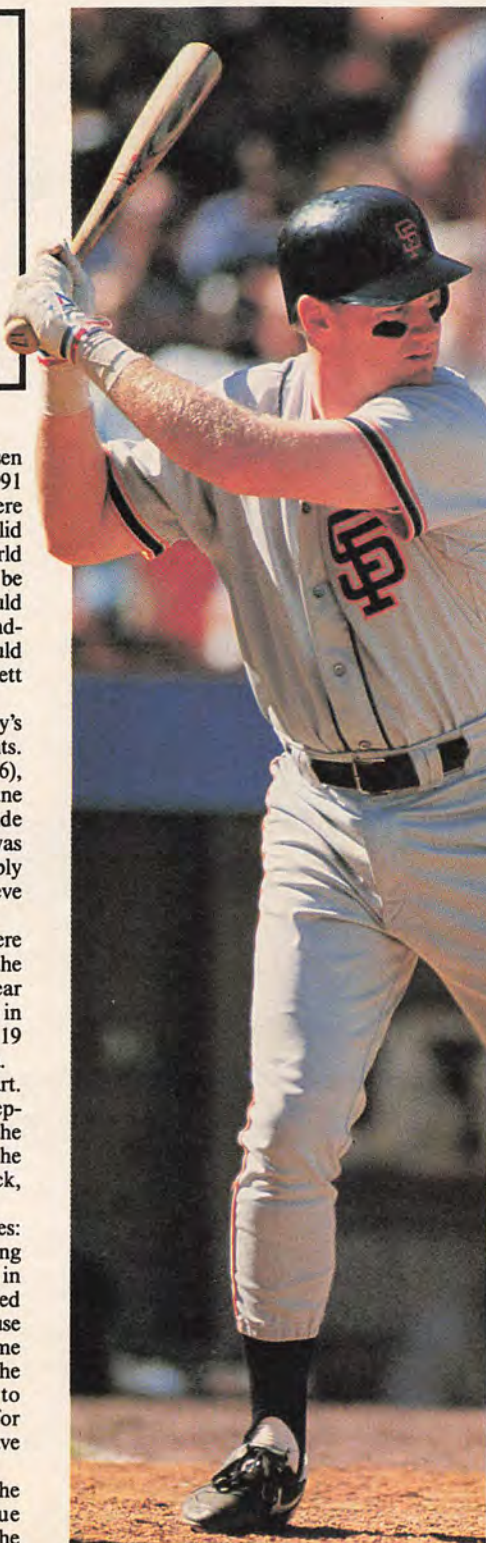
In an exaggerated application of Murphy's Law, none of that happened for the Giants. Black led the National League in losses (16), Righetti didn't get his second save until June 2, and McGee hit the softest .312 this side of Oddibe McDowell. The pitching staff was a shambles, Robby Thompson was horribly miscast as a leadoff batter, and rookies Steve Decker and Mike Benjamin were flops.

The Giants' pennant chances effectively were over by late May, when they stood 12-28, the worst 40-game start in the franchise's 109-year history. Dissension reared for the first time in the Roger Craig era. The Giants finished 19 games behind NL West champion Atlanta.

It was enough to break a manager's heart. Craig, in fact, underwent a procedure in September to clear blockage in an artery. To the surprise of many and the dismay of some, he wasn't fired and didn't quit, and will be back, at 62, for his seventh full season.

The big story is who won't be back. Clues: He has a gold tooth, a penchant for eating Vicks VapoRub, and one of the biggest bats in baseball. Trouble was, Kevin Mitchell started just 99 games last season, missing time because of knee, wrist and groin injuries, and became an increasingly troublesome presence in the clubhouse. The Giants hardly could wait to dump Mitchell, shipping him to Seattle for pitchers Bill Swift, Mike Jackson and Dave Burba.

Rosen was roasted for the deal, and the Giants probably didn't get equal value for Mitchell. But they felt it essential, for the



sake of morale, to get him off the team. Any lineup that has Will Clark and Matt Williams will remain potent, although many questions (shortstop, catcher, leadoff) await answers. A bigger question is this: Can Craig, whose reputation as a pitching genius is in serious jeopardy, fashion a staff that is not too old, too lame or too lousy to get the job done? Unless the Seattle trio makes a huge difference, the answer likely is no.

PITCHING The good news is that Rick Reuschel, Mike LaCoss and Don Robinson — the old, the bad and the portly — no longer are around to clog up the staff, which tied with the Cubs for the highest ERA in the NL (4.03) last season. The Giants have used 18 different starters the past two years. They received fewer innings (945) from their starters in '91 than any other NL club. New pitching coach Carlos Alfonso, who replaces ousted Roger Craig crony Norm Sherry, will be counting heavily on bona fide acehood from Trevor Wilson, an improved showing by Bud Black, and lots of little miracles.

Al Rosen promised to land a proven starter in any swap for Kevin Mitchell. He delivered Bill Swift, who has a career 20-35 record and 4.99 ERA as a starter. This is a staff in transition, as opposed to the past two years, when it was a staff in remission.

STARTING PITCHING After trying him as a lefthanded setup man, then attempting to send him to the minors only to discover he was out of options, the Giants decided to give Trevor Wilson another chance as a starter last season. By July 16, he was 4-9, more losses than anyone in the NL except John Smoltz (11) and Andy Benes (10).

Finally, the stuff that had helped Wilson take a no-hitter into the ninth inning of a 1990 game reappeared. "It was like a big light went on," said a scout. "He wasn't a thrower anymore. He always had a great moving fastball, but he finally learned to change speeds better and get his breaking pitches over." Wilson reeled off six straight victories and won nine of his last 11, including a two-hit shutout of the Dodgers on Oct. 5 that finished L.A. in the

Matt Williams

NL West race.

In addition to his 90- to 92-mph fastball, Wilson has a hard, biting slider and uses a split-finger pitch as a change-up. He preys on lefty swingers, limiting them to an NL-low .169 average last year. If he remains aggressive and has enough stamina — he's listed at 6-0, 175 pounds — Wilson, 25, could be the ace the Giants haven't had since Rick Reuschel won 19 games in 1988.

Bud Black was appointed staff ace after signing a \$10 million contract in November 1990, but it was an unfair expectation for a guy with a career 83-82 record. He showed flashes of excellence, including a stretch in May in which he pitched back-to-back shut-outs and came within one out of a third. But mostly he struggled.

Black needs to finesse hitters, spotting a fastball that is uncharacteristically straight for a lefty and working away with a big, slow curve and change-up. When he doesn't locate his stuff well, bad things happen, like 25 homers allowed last season. Black missed a start before the All-Star break with a "tired" arm, and though he made every other start, there was suspicion among Giants observers that his arm never was quite right.

Righthander John Burkett fell in love with a split-finger pitch last season, and his velocity steadily diminished. He was 9-5 with a 3.27 ERA through Aug. 8; 3-6, 7.28 the rest of the way. "His velocity was shot," said a scout. Burkett doesn't have overwhelming stuff, but challenges hitters and can win when he relies on his sinker/slider combination. He planned to cut back on his throwing the past winter, an attempt to save some arm for the second half. In two seasons with the Giants, Burkett is 14-7 with a 3.27 ERA before the All-Star break; 12-11 with a 4.79 ERA after.

Upon hearing the Giants planned to use him as a starter, righthander Bill Swift said: "I don't know. It should be interesting. I got kind of comfortable in the bullpen." As well he should have, coming off a season in which he had 17 saves in 18 opportunities, a 1.99 ERA in 71 appearances, and held opponents to a .224 average. The Giants feel Swift's superb sinker is tailor-made for the slow grass of Candlestick Park. This guy holds the major league record for ground-ball outs in a game, getting 22 in a 1988 start.

Swift has a good slider and a decent change-up, too, and likely will be fitted with a split-finger pitch by Roger Craig. Swift gets into trouble when hitters wait out his sinker, which tends to drop out of the strike zone. When forced to bring the ball up, he gets hit hard.

The leading candidate for the fifth spot is Bryan Hickerson, 28, who throws harder now than he did before undergoing "Tommy John" surgery on his left elbow in 1988. Hickerson's fastball has climbed into the 86- to 87-mph range and has some action. He uses a split-finger pitch about 60 percent of the time, and it can freeze batters. In six starts late last season, Hickerson was 2-2 with a 2.61 ERA.

If Hickerson flames out, or the Giants have a greater need for him in the bullpen, righthander Dave Burba could make the rotation. He throws 90 mph and has a good slider and change-up, but tends to give hitters too much credit.

Another "Tommy John" project is righthander Scott Garrelts, who had his surgery last July. Garrelts, the NL ERA leader in 1989, isn't expected back until after the All-Star break. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

RELIEF PITCHING Lefthander Dave Righetti had 24 saves last season, his lowest total since becoming a closer in 1984. He was presented with just two save opportunities in his first 18 games, and by his own admission had lapses of concentration during mopup duty. When the Giants' success picked up, so did Righetti's. His save percentage (24 of 29) was fourth best in the NL, and he was first in inherited runners stranded (27 of 32) and first-batter efficiency (52 of 56 retired). All that said, red flags abound. Righetti's fastball, once in the mid-90-mph range, has slowed to 86-87. He still has a sharp slider, and will mix in a change-up, but those pitches are dimming in effectiveness as his heater goes.

Righetti receives help from righthander Jeff Brantley. An All-Star in '90, he had another solid season in '91, posting a 5-2 record, 15 saves and 2.45 ERA in a career-high 67 games. Brantley is a fearless little guy (5-11, 180) who relishes tough situations. The Giants only wish he didn't create so many. Last season he allowed 135 runners in 95 innings, though only 27 scored. Brantley attacks with a sneaky fastball and a wicked split-finger pitch. Scouts didn't see consistent 90- to 91-mph velocity from him last year, as they had in '90, which could mean Brantley's arm was hurting or he was overused.

The Giants are counting on righthander Mike Jackson to be the dependable setup man they've lacked since Craig Lefferts bolted to the Padres. Jackson has a terrific slider, but tends to overthrow it in crucial situations, hanging it over the plate. He needs to make better use of his plus fastball. If Jackson's first pitch upon entering a game is a strike, he usually is OK. If he falls behind, expect trouble. Righthanders barely touched him (.170) last year. His slider can be that good.

Righthander Kelly Downs is hurt so frequently that his live, sinking fastball, hard slider and forkball rarely do the Giants much good. They finally kicked him out of the rotation last year, and while his relief numbers (7-0, 3.75 ERA) look OK, he had a 6.47 ERA after Aug. 1.

Other candidates include righthanders Francisco Oliveras and Rod Beck, a Don Robinson look-alike. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

CATCHING Steve Decker couldn't make the jump from Double-A to the majors last season. He didn't hit and, worse, had trouble receiving (seven passed balls in 78 games). Two trips to Triple-A didn't help, so Decker likely will be afforded more time at Phoenix. A big kid with right-side power, Decker still has promise. He can pound on low fastballs, but needs to make adjustments for junk. Decker has enough arm strength — he stopped 23 of 64 runners last season — and fairly good hands, but his feet get tangled and he has little clue about calling a game.

While the Giants wait for Decker, unassuming Kirt Manwaring probably will be the chief squatter. He's an agile receiver with soft hands, and unloads his throw as quickly as anyone. Manwaring, though, can't hit a lick. His offense is looking for a first-pitch high fastball that he can plop into the opposite field. Anything with a wrinkle befuddles Manwaring, who has one homer in 206 major league games.

Manwaring is an ideal backup, but until Decker is ready, the extra catcher probably will be journeyman Steve Lake, a fine receiver

who throws with deadly accuracy. Lake offers virtually nothing with his bat.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

INFIELD No other club in the majors comes close to matching the Giants at the infield corners. Will Clark and Matt Williams combined for 63 homers and 214 RBIs last season, and both won their first Gold Gloves.

Until being done in by a knee injury last September, Clark was bidding for the Triple Crown. Despite hitting only .253 with 3 homers and 14 RBIs in September and October, he finished at .301 with 29 homers and a career-high 116 RBIs.

No one is more self-assured in the batter's box than Clark. Swinging with a slight uppercut, he pounds fastballs and breaking balls, and has power to all fields. Clark is quick to recognize how pitchers are working him and makes constant adjustments. He still has trouble laying off a high fastball when behind in the count, but otherwise rarely gets himself out. Clark isn't the slickest first baseman in the league, but has adequate range, turns a double play adroitly and doesn't give up on throws in the dirt.

It's hard to argue with 34 homers and 98 RBIs, but the perception in San Francisco was that Williams' season was a tad disappointing. That's because in the first six weeks, when the Giants were gasping, Williams was sputtering right along with them. Through 39 games, he was hitting .199 with 4 homers and 19 RBIs. Williams rebounded quite nicely, driving in runs in 10 straight games at one point and becoming just the seventh player to homer in 12 NL parks in one season.

Williams crushes fastballs and is a great mistake hitter. He can be jammed, but it has to be a good fastball, right on top of his hands. Though he has made dramatic improvement at tracking breaking stuff, Williams still can be fooled. At third base, he has everything — soft hands, quick feet, fine range, great arm. If the Giants wanted him at short, Williams would be the NL's version of Cal Ripken.

Robby Thompson has made a career of exceeding expectations, and last season was no exception. Unfazed by an ill-conceived attempt to convert him into a leadoff man (the experiment had died by mid-May), Thompson set a San Francisco record for homers by a second baseman (19) and was nearly flawless turning the double play. Lacking the patience and speed to bat leadoff, Thompson is best low in the order, where he can hack away at high fastballs and his 100 strikeouts a year are less damaging. He does some of his best hitting with a game on the line. A scrapper at second base, Thompson compensates for below-average range by knowing his pitchers and the hitters.

Shortstop Jose Uribe finally has admitted he's older than listed, fessing up that he was born in 1959, not 1960. Whatever his age, with each passing year Uribe's range decreases and his arm gets weaker, making it harder for the Giants to put up with his anemic offense. However, Uribe is likely to be back out there this season, because 1) he still catches everything he gets to; 2) he's superb turning the double play; and 3) the Giants don't have much choice. Mike Benjamin can field, but barely hit his temperature last year, much less his weight. Royce Clayton, who has Barry Larkin-type tools, has cleared Double-A, but the Giants are unlikely to rush him.

In reserve, the Giants have Greg Litton.

GRADE (max. 10): **7.5**

OUTFIELD

From the third game on last season, McGee's average never fell below .300. He was the NL's top hitter on the road (.345) and on artificial turf (.388), was second best with runners on base (.339) and fifth best with runners in scoring position (.343). So why did the Giants wish they still had Brett Butler?

For one thing, McGee continued to play the outfield as if in a daze, misjudging fly balls and throwing haphazardly with an arm that has lost strength. For another, McGee continued to be plagued by muscle pulls, playing in just 131 games. His running game, once a major weapon, largely is gone. Finally, McGee never seemed to do much of anything that



Will Clark

GRADE (max. 10): **6.0**

MANAGEMENT

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

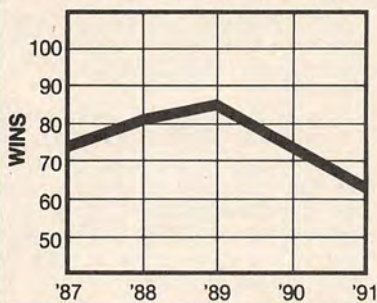
T.Q.[®]34.5

PITCHERS															CATCHERS																
	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA		B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Ard, Johnny	R-R	6-5	220	24	AA-AAA	12-8	3.99	23	0	15	143	66	90	267	Manwaring, Kirt	R-R	5-11	190	26	A-AAA	.214	.288	84	9	18	0	0	4	14	0	
Beck, Rod	R-R	6-1	215	23	AAA	4-3	3.02	23	6	71	56	13	35	216						San Francisco	.225	.271	178	16	40	9	0	0	19	1	
					San Francisco	1-1	3.78	31	1	52	53	13	38	273	INFELDERS	B-T <th>HL</th> <th>WL</th> <th>Age</th> <th>1991 Club</th> <th>Avg.</th> <th>OBP</th> <th>AB</th> <th>R</th> <th>H</th> <th>2B</th> <th>3B</th> <th>HR</th> <th>RBI</th> <th>SB</th>	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Black, Bud	L-L	6-2	185	34	San Francisco	12-16	3.99	34	0	214	201	71	104	251	Benjamin, Mike	R-R	6-1	175	26	AAA	.204	.270	226	34	46	13	2	6	31	3	
Brantley, Jeff	R-R	5-11	180	28	San Francisco	5-2	2.45	67	15	95	78	52	81	225						San Francisco	.123	.188	106	12	13	3	0	2	6	3	
Burba, Dave	R-R	6-4	220	25	AAA	6-4	3.54	23	4	71	82	27	42	294	Clark, Will	L-L	6-1	190	28	San Francisco	.301	.359	565	84	170	32	7	29	116	4	
					Seattle	2-2	3.68	22	1	37	34	14	16	245	Clayton, Royce	R-R	6-0	175	22	AA	.280	.361	485	84	136	22	8	5	68	36	
Burkett, John	R-R	6-2	210	27	San Francisco	12-11	4.28	36	0	207	223	60	131	277						San Francisco	.115	.148	26	0	3	1	0	2	0		
Downs, Kelly	R-R	6-4	205	31	San Francisco	10-4	4.19	45	0	112	99	53	62	239	Litton, Greg	R-R	6-0	190	27	AAA	.407	.543	27	19	11	1	0	4	9	0	
Garreits, Scott	R-R	6-4	210	30	San Francisco	1-1	6.41	8	0	20	25	9	8	313						San Francisco	.181	.250	127	13	23	7	1	1	15	0	
Gunderson, Eric	L-L	6-0	175	26	AAA	7-6	5.14	40	3	107	153	44	53	336	Santana, Andres	S-R	5-11	150	24	AAA	.316	.370	456	84	144	7	5	1	35	45	
					San Francisco	0-0	5.40	2	1	3	6	1	2	353	Thompson, Robby	R-R	5-11	170	29	San Francisco	.262	.352	492	74	129	24	5	19	48	14	
Heredia, Gil	R-R	6-1	190	26	AAA	9-11	2.82	33	1	140	155	28	75	281	Urbe, Jose	S-R	5-10	170	33	A-AAA	.300	.309	50	7	15	1	2	0	5	0	
					San Francisco	0-2	3.82	7	0	33	27	7	13	233						San Francisco	.221	.283	231	23	51	8	4	1	12	3	
Hickerson, Bryan	R-R	6-2	195	28	AA-AAA	4-5	3.95	35	4	50	65	19	62	277	Williams, Matt	R-R	6-2	210	26	San Francisco	.268	.310	589	72	158	24	5	34	98	5	
					San Francisco	2-2	3.60	17	0	50	53	17	43	275	OUTFIELDERS	B-T <th>HL</th> <th>WL</th> <th>Age</th> <th>1991 Club</th> <th>Avg.</th> <th>OBP</th> <th>AB</th> <th>R</th> <th>H</th> <th>2B</th> <th>3B</th> <th>HR</th> <th>RBI</th> <th>SB</th>	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Jackson, Mike	R-R	6-0	200	27	Seattle	7-7	3.25	72	14	89	64	34	74	201	Bass, Kevin	S-R	6-0	190	32	A-AAA	.250	.303	60	9	15	5	1	2	8	3	
Masters, Dave	R-R	6-9	235	27	AAA	5-8	6.20	35	1	101	116	80	92	291						San Francisco	.233	.307	361	43	84	10	4	10	40	7	
McClellan, Paul	R-R	6-2	180	26	AA-AAA	13-2	2.82	19	0	134	102	51	81	211	Felder, Mike	S-R	5-8	160	29	San Francisco	.264	.325	348	51	92	10	6	0	18	21	
Oliveras, Francisco	R-R	5-10	180	29	AAA	2-0	2.45	3	0	18	38	7	12	254	Chris, Mark	R-R	6-1	190	29	Cleveland	.238	.273	437	31	104	16	2	5	41	3	
					San Francisco	6-6	3.86	55	3	79	69	28	48	242	Leonard, Mark	L-R	6-0	195	27	AAA	.253	.343	145	27	37	7	0	8	25	1	
Righetti, Dave	L-L	6-4	212	33	San Francisco	2-7	3.39	61	24	72	64	22	51	240						San Francisco	.240	.306	129	14	31	7	1	2	14	0	
Rogers, Kevin	S-L	6-1	190	23	AA	4-6	3.36	22	0	118	124	54	108	268	Lewis, Darren	R-R	6-0	175	24	AAA	.140	.413	315	63	107	12	10	2	52	32	
Swift, Bill	R-R	6-0	180	30	Seattle	1-2	1.99	71	17	90	74	26	48	224						San Francisco	.248	.358	222	41	51	5	3	1	15	13	
Wilson, Trevor	L-L	6-0	175	25	San Francisco	13-11	3.56	44	0	202	171	77	139	234	McGee, Willie	S-R	6-1	195	33	AAA	.500	.615	10	4	5	1	0	0	1	2	
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB						San Francisco	.312	.357	497	67	151	30	3	4	43	17
Decker, Steve	R-R	6-3	205	26	AAA	.252	.336	111	20	28	5	1	6	14	0	Snyder, Cory	R-R	6-3	185	29	Chicago (AL)	.188	.228	117	10	22	4	0	3	11	0
					San Francisco	.206	.262	233	11	48	7	1	5	24	0						Toronto	.143	.189	49	4	7	0	1	0	6	0
Lake, Steve	R-R	6-1	202	35	Philadelphia	.228	.238	158	12	36	4	1	1	11	0	Wood, Ted	L-L	6-2	178	25	AAA	.311	.407	512	90	159	38	6	11	109	12
Coaches — Carlos Alfonso; Dusty Baker; Bob Brenly; Wendell Kim; Bob Lillis																					San Francisco	.120	.185	25	0	3	0	0	0	1	0

HOUSTON ASTROS

1991 RECORD: 65-97 MANAGER: ART HOWE STADIUM: ASTRODOME (54,816)

5-YEAR SCAN



John McMullen, Houston Astros owner, has been labeled an opportunist, a penny pincher and a tyrant — and that's by his good friends. But even McMullen's most ardent detractors must admire his flair for magic.

In an age of outrageous player salaries, McMullen has managed to make time go backward, gutting his payroll. Only the Jacobs brothers, McMullen's skinflints-in-arms from Cleveland, can perform more tricks on a shoe-string budget. McMullen's financial sleight of hand, however, pales in comparison to his scheduling wizardry. In a 28-day period this summer, he will make 25 players, five coaches and one manager disappear.

The Astros, never particularly comfortable in the great outdoors, are bracing themselves for the mother of all road trips. From July 27 through Aug. 23, they will travel from Atlanta to Cincinnati to Los Angeles to San Diego to San Francisco to Chicago to St. Louis to Philadelphia — eight cities in three time zones covering 7,779 air miles — while the Astrodome forsakes baseball, hot dogs and the seventh-inning stretch for politics, hot air and the Republican National Convention. McMullen, at the urging of Harris County, Texas, officials, rented the 'Dome for the convention without consulting the National League office.

As bizarre as their schedule is, the Astros are fortunate in two respects: They open the season with a 15-game homestand, and have a world-class optimist in the dugout. "I guess the secret is to have a 10-game lead going into the trip," says manager Art Howe. "I'm going to use it as a challenge to the players. Everybody thinks we'll go into the tank, so let's show people something."

The rookie-laden Astros did well last season to win 65 games, finishing 29 games out of first place in the NL West. Three seasons ago, they went 86-76 and finished six games out. It seems the longer the McMullen era endures, the less baseball fans in Houston have a right to expect.

PITCHING In 1989 the rotation was Mike Scott, Bob Forsch, Bob Knepper, Jim Deshaies and Jim Clancy. With Scott's retirement and the jettisoning of Deshaies, the Astros have severed all ties to the Dentu-Grip era. As spring training approached, 29-year-old Mark Portugal was the dean of the staff, and the Astros were trying desperately to unload him. Houston has young, quality arms, but the nurturing process is likely to result in more floggings this season.

STARTING PITCHING In a move designed to help the staff, the Astros have lowered the fences in the 'Dome and moved them closer to home plate. The theory, espoused by general manager Bill Wood, is that Houston pitchers develop bad habits in the spacious

home park and don't adjust in smaller road parks. The new dimensions will force pitchers to be more aggressive. The projected rotation of Pete Harnisch, Darryl Kile, Mark Portugal, Ryan Bowen and Jimmy Jones — all righthanders — combined for a 2.95 ERA, with 3.4 walks per nine innings, at home last season. On the road, the numbers were 4.99 and 4.3.

Harnisch leads the league in deception. After changing his motion to suit his former employer, the Baltimore Orioles, he returned to his natural windup last season, holding his glove high and making it difficult for batters to pick up the ball. The results: league-best .212 opponents' average, 2.70 ERA, 172 strikeouts and a spot on the All-Star team.

Harnisch has a 92-mph fastball and a hard

Pete Harnisch



slider, and has begun to complement them with a change-up. When all three pitches are working, strikeouts come easily. In a game last September against Philadelphia, he became the 23rd player in major league history to strike out the side on nine pitches. Harnisch, young, durable and able to work his way out of trouble, can be a consistent 15- to 18-game winner with better control and more run support. He issued the fourth-most walks in the NL, and the Astros scored 12 runs in his nine losses.

Kile wins rave reviews from scouts. At 6-5, 185 pounds, he has a fine build for a pitcher, plus a fluid motion and lithe arm. Kile throws a tailing fastball, a hard slider, one of the NL's best curves and a straight change. But Kile is barely 23, and it shows. He struggled with his control last season, walking 84 in 154 innings and constantly working from behind in the count. Like most green pitchers, he has a hard time thinking his way out of jams, and the Astros won't have a veteran catcher to guide him. As a hitter, Kile's 0-for-38 performance last season conjured memories of Dean Chance and Hank Aguirre.

Will Portugal be an Astro on Opening Day? It's a coin toss. In another attempt to slash the payroll, Houston power-shopped Portugal over the winter, nearly completing a deal that would have sent him to the White Sox for outfielder Sammy Sosa. Portugal's approach is to establish his off-speed stuff, then go to his mid-80s fastball. He has an excellent change-up and curve. After seven years in the majors, Portugal still has a tendency to lose his composure at the drop of a hat — not to mention a fly ball.

Bowen, a first-round draft choice in 1986, is another "stuff" pitcher. He throws a fastball in the 90- to 94-mph range, a hard curve and a straight change. In lieu of a slider, he cuts his fastball to give it extra movement. Bowen's inconsistent breaking pitch last season allowed batters to sit on his fastball. He was shaky on the road (8.07 ERA), and always has encountered control problems, averaging 5.6 walks per nine innings in the minor leagues.

Jones finished last season on the 60-day disabled list after undergoing surgery for removal of bone chips in his right elbow. He is expected to be healthy for spring training. Jones has to move the ball around and change speeds to get by. His off-speed pitches (curve, straight change) are effective; his fastball is batting-practice meat.

If Jones falters, manager Art Howe will choose his No. 5 starter from righthanders Brian Williams, Jeff Juden and Chris Gardner. Williams, a 1990 draft pick, jumped from Class A to the majors last season, but if he returns to Houston this year, it strictly will be a rush job. His professional resume consists of 162 innings. Juden, 21, is three years removed from Salem, Mass., High School, where he went 30-4 with 488 strikeouts in 254 innings. He is imposing at 6-7, 245 pounds, but more a finesse pitcher than power type. Gardner throws a sweeping curve and a fastball in the upper 80s.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

RELIEF PITCHING The bullpen was the source of a seven-month headache for Art Howe in 1991. The Astros went 30-44 in games decided by two or fewer runs, and the pen blew 23 saves.

In April Howe handed the ball to Curt Schilling, who responded by converting five

of his first six save opportunities. Hitters, though, eventually caught up to Schilling. His fastball has movement, but he overthrows everything. He has yet to develop a consistent off-speed pitch, and the longer he goes without fulfilling his potential, the more questions are asked about his makeup. As one scout observed, "Something is missing."

It was obvious what righthander Doug Jones was missing last season. After providing Cleveland with 112 saves over three years, he lost his touch with a state-of-the-art change-up, ended up in the minors, and was shown the door. The Astros signed Jones in January.

Lefty Al Osuna has a reputation as a guy who will take the ball, but was put into too many situations he couldn't handle last year. He blew nine of 21 save opportunities. Osuna has a good slider and throws a sinking fastball that runs away from righthanders. He could use a third pitch and/or better control.

Lefthander Rob Mallicoat and righthander Xavier Hernandez will handle the middle innings. Mallicoat, limited to 28 innings from 1988-90 because of shoulder problems, pitched 102 innings in 61 appearances last season while working his way up from the minors. A breaking-ball pitcher, Mallicoat can be tough on lefties. Hernandez relies on a split-finger pitch, but doesn't throw it consistently for strikes. He has a 4.68 ERA in 73 major league appearances. **GRADE (max. 10): 3.5**

CATCHING The Astros faced an annual quandary with Craig Biggio. He is a wonderful offensive player — the fair-haired boy of Rotisserie League types — but teams ran on him at will and every year, around the first of August, he was gassed. The Astros decided to move Biggio to second base, beginning this season. As a result, Houston was so desperate for catching, it traded top center-field prospect Kenny Lofton to Cleveland for Ed Taubensee — a classic case of giving up superior talent to address a crying need.

Taubensee, an offensive player who reminds scouts of Ted Simmons, is a lefthanded hitter with power. He hit .310 with 13 homers in 287 at-bats for Triple-A Colorado Springs last season. Defensively, he is a liability, his strong arm negated by slow, size-16 feet and below-average hands. He stopped only two of 19 runners in 26 games with Cleveland last year.

Scott Servais is the righthanded bat in a probable platoon. He hit .324 in 60 Triple-A games last season before being called up, then looked overmatched against big league pitching, going hitless in his first 22 at-bats and struggling with breaking balls. Defensively, he has rapport with the young starters, knows how to call a game and has adequate arm strength. If Servais needs more time in the minors, the Astros can turn to Tony Eusebio or Scooter Tucker and keep their fingers crossed. **GRADE (max. 10): 3.5**

INFIELD Stats guru Bill James supposedly committed last year's most outrageous example of seamhead overkill when he predicted rookie first baseman Jeff Bagwell would win the NL batting title. By the end of the season, no one was laughing. Bagwell, hitting .300 as late as Sept. 27, finished at .294.

Bagwell wasn't selective early in the season, striking out 71 times before the All-Star break, but was more patient in the second half and ended up leading the club in walks and on-base percentage. The righthanded hitter never

backed away from breaking balls or pitchers trying to work him inside, getting hit by a pitch 13 times, most in the majors.

Scouts are intrigued by Bagwell's hitting mechanics. "He's a severe upper-cutter who hits a lot of balls on the ground," said one. "He hits the ball with a lot of topspin, so it has a duck-hook effect, like in golf." Bagwell has an ultra-quick bat and uses his hips and legs well to generate power. In May he hit a 456-foot homer off Bob Kipper into the upper deck at Three Rivers Stadium. Defensively, the converted third baseman has good range and is adept at picking balls in the dirt. In his initial season at first base, he committed 12 errors, none after Aug. 13.

Craig Biggio, a shortstop in high school, should be able to handle the rigors of second base after moving from catcher. He is quick, has soft hands and moves well laterally. His biggest challenge will be mastering the double-play pivot.

The rest of Biggio's game should benefit from the move. While sturdy at 5-11, 180 pounds, all the squatting he did took a toll on his base running. He stole 19 bases last season, but his legs were so dead, he didn't attempt a steal between Aug. 6 and Sept. 27. He's a good bet to steal 30 this season. At the plate, his line-drive style suits the Astrodome, where he hit .343 last season, compared with .245 on the road. A good high-fastball hitter, he is vulnerable to breaking pitches down and away. Art Howe likes to hit and run with Biggio, one of the toughest players in baseball to double up.

Shortstop Andujar Cedeno arrived last July hailed as a superstar in waiting. He has tools, no question. But at 22, he's destined to experience growing pains. Last season he often got caught in between hops. His initial reaction usually was to take a step backward, resulting in careless errors. *He has soft hands, good range and a stronger arm than any NL shortstop except Shawon Dunston.*

At the plate, Cedeno defines "free-swinger." A dead high-fastball hitter, he struck out 74 times and drew 9 walks in 251 at-bats last year. He has the ability to fall behind 0-2, looking terrible in the process, then hit the ball hard. The Astros think he quickly will develop into a 25-homer-a-year guy.

Ken Caminiti, the switch-hitting third baseman, has considered going one way. Last season he hit .310 with a homer every 25.8 at-bats righthanded, .213 with a homer every 85.5 at-bats lefthanded. Pitchers get him out by jamming him on the left side, and he's vulnerable to change-ups from both sides. In a league stocked with quality third basemen, Caminiti ranks among the elite. He has a powerful arm, excellent reflexes and lateral movement, and plays bunts superbly. Many of his 23 errors last season were a result of aggressive play.

Casey Candaele and Rafael Ramirez are the reserves. Candaele is a manager's best friend, a hustling switch-hitter able to play second, third and any outfield spot. He makes contact and runs well. Ramirez, on the downside of a solid career, provides insurance should Cedeno falter and is a healthy influence in the clubhouse. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.5**

OUTFIELD When the Astros acquired Steve Finley from Baltimore in the January 1991 Glenn Davis trade, a lot of people pigeonholed Finley as a fourth outfielder. He proved to be much more, adding spark at the top of the order and getting as many hits (170) as

Will Clark and Ryne Sandberg. One Astros watcher describes the centerfielder as a "poor man's Brett Butler."

Finley doesn't bunt as well as Butler, or walk nearly as much, but throws better and has superior power. He goes back for the ball very well and is outstanding laterally. He can run (34 steals in 52 attempts) and in time should become more adept at picking his spots. Finley, a lefthanded batter, hit a creditable .250 against lefties, and struck out once every 10.1 plate appearances, the eighth-best ratio in the NL. He will chase high fastballs but, like Butler, is proficient at fouling off borderline pitches.

Leftfielder Luis Gonzalez, the principal victim of management's decision to raise the height of the outfield fences in 1991, should benefit when they come back down in '92. Gonzalez hit 13 homers, losing five more on "wall balls" in the Astrodome. He has a classic lefthanded swing and the bat speed to



Andujar Cedeno

turn on good inside fastballs.

Gonzalez hit .172 and fanned once every 3.9 at-bats against lefthanders, so he can expect to sit or drop down in the order this season against tough lefties. Defensively, he plays hard and runs well, but retreats awkwardly for the ball and has a weak arm, the result of 1989 rotator cuff surgery.

Houston rightfielders last season batted .227 and had fewer RBIs (57) than every other major league team except Cleveland. Tired of waiting on Eric Anthony, the Astros signed Pete Incaviglia in January. The stout slugger, coming off an injury-plagued season with Detroit, has a slider-speed bat, which was good enough for him to average 25 homers

and 78 RBIs in five years with Texas. Slow afoot, Inky is ill-suited for right field in a league with big parks and fast surfaces.

Anthony, 24, has upper-deck power, but is frozen by off-speed stuff and has a hole on the inner half of the plate, above the belt. Defensively, he gets poor jumps and has below-average arm strength.

Other outfield candidates include Gerald Young, Tuffy Rhodes and Mike Simms. Young, who has tantalized the Astros with potential for years, won't be ready until May because of a wrist injury. Some scouts rate him as the league's best defensive centerfielder, with an above-average arm and terrific range. However, Young can't bunt and doesn't hit the ball on the ground enough to maximize his speed. He would be a huge asset if he hit .250, but hasn't been higher than .233 since 1988.

Rhodes runs OK, makes contact, and can play all three outfield posts. Simms hits fly balls, some out of the park, but is a liability in right field. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.0**

MANAGEMENT Art Howe has the requisite patience to manage a losing team, which the Astros certainly will be again in 1992. He makes a concerted effort to bolster young players' confidence, and they respond by playing hard. It's tough to judge Howe as a strategist because he's handicapped by his personnel.

General manager Bill Wood comes out on the plus side of the trading ledger. He stole Casey Candaele for Mark Bailey, and Mark Portugal for Todd McClure, and did just fine in acquiring Pete Harnisch, Steve Finley and Curt Schilling from Baltimore when everyone knew he had to dump Glenn Davis. Wood's image suffers because he has to serve as the bearer of so much bad news on behalf of ownership. John McMullen has the Astros up for sale, but the process seems to be dragging on interminably.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

T.Q.®29.0

PITCHERS														CATCHERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Blair, Willie	R-R	6-1	185	26	AAA	9-6	4.99	26	4	114	130	30	57	.284	Taubensee, Ed	L-R	6-4	205	23	AAA	.310	.377	287	53	89	23	3	13	39	0
					Cleveland	2-3	0.50	10	0	18	5	7	.091							.242	.288	66	5	16	2	1	0	8	0	
Bowen, Ryan	R-R	6-0	185	24	AAA	5-5	4.36	18	0	99	114	56	78	.337	Tucker, Scooter	R-R	6-2	205	26	AA	.284	.376	352	49	100	29	1	4	49	3
					Houston	6-4	5.15	14	0	72	73	36	49	.268																
Gardner, Chris	R-R	6-0	175	23	AA	13-5	3.15	22	0	131	116	75	72	.248	INFIELDERS															
					Houston	1-2	4.01	5	0	25	19	14	12	.218	Bagwell, Jeff	R-R	6-0	195	23	Houston	.294	.387	654	79	163	26	4	15	82	7
Harnisch, Pete	R-R	6-0	207	25	Houston	12-9	2.70	33	0	217	169	83	172	.212	Biggio, Craig	R-R	5-11	180	26	Houston	.295	.358	546	79	161	23	4	4	46	19
Henry, Butch	L-L	6-1	195	23	AAA	10-11	4.80	27	0	154	192	42	97	.312	Caminetti, Ken	S-R	6-0	200	28	Houston	.263	.312	574	85	145	30	3	13	80	4
Hernandez, Xavier	L-R	6-2	185	26	AAA	2-1	2.75	16	4	36	35	9	34	.257	Candaele, Casey	S-R	5-9	165	31	Houston	.262	.319	461	44	121	20	7	4	50	9
					Houston	2-7	4.71	32	3	63	66	32	55	.263	Cedeno, Andujar	R-R	6-1	168	22	AAA	.303	.341	347	49	105	19	5	7	55	5
Jones, Doug	R-R	6-2	195	34	AAA	2-2	3.38	17	7	36	30	5	29	.242	Houston					.243	.270	251	27	61	13	2	9	36	4	
					Cleveland	4-8	5.54	36	7	63	87	17	48	.320	Cooper, Gary	R-R	6-1	200	27	AAA	.305	.402	406	86	124	25	6	14	75	7
Jones, Jimmy	R-R	6-2	190	27	Houston	6-8	4.39	26	0	135	143	51	86	.270	Houston					.250	.368	16	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	
Jones, Todd	L-R	6-3	200	23	A-AA	8-7	4.60	24	0	128	119	74	99	.247	Guerrero, Juan	R-R	5-11	160	25	AA	.334	.395	441	74	146	34	2	18	84	14
Juden, Jeff	R-R	6-7	245	21	AA-AAA	9-5	3.14	26	0	152	140	69	126	.249	Mota, Andy	R-R	5-10	180	26	AAA	.299	.339	482	85	138	19	4	2	46	14
					Houston	0-2	6.00	4	0	18	19	7	11	.275	Houston					.189	.198	90	4	17	2	0	1	6	2	
Kile, Darryl	R-R	6-5	185	23	Houston	7-11	3.69	37	0	154	144	84	100	.246	Ramirez, Rafael	R-R	5-11	190	33	Houston	.236	.274	233	17	55	10	0	1	20	3
Mallicoate, Rob	L-L	6-3	180	27	AA-AAA	8-5	4.83	37	2	79	63	47	66	.226	Yelding, Eric	R-R	5-11	165	27	AAA	.395	.469	43	6	17	3	0	0	3	0
					Houston	0-2	3.86	24	1	23	22	13	16	.259	Houston					.243	.276	278	19	67	11	1	20	11		
Osuna, Al	L-L	6-3	200	26	Houston	7-6	3.42	71	12	82	59	46	66	.201	OUTFIELDERS															
Portugal, Mark	R-R	6-0	190	29	Houston	10-12	4.49	32	1	158	163	59	120	.256	Anthony, Eric	B-L	6-2	195	24	AAA	.336	.387	318	57	107	22	2	9	63	11
Schilling, Curt	R-R	6-4	215	25	AAA	0-1	3.42	13	3	24	16	12	21	.186	Houston					.153	.227	118	11	18	6	0	1	7	1	
					Houston	3-5	3.81	56	8	76	79	39	71	.271	Finley, Steve	L-L	6-2	180	27	Houston	.285	.331	596	84	170	28	10	8	54	34
Williams, Brian	R-R	6-2	195	23	A-AA-AAA	8-6	3.59	12	0	143	128	69	111	.239	Gonzalez, Luis	L-R	6-2	180	24	Houston	.254	.320	473	51	120	28	9	13	89	10
					Houston	0-1	3.75	2	0	12	11	4	4	.250	Incaviglia, Pete	R-R	6-1	230	28	Detroit	.210	.290	337	38	72	12	1	11	38	1
					Houston										Rhodes, Karl	L-L	5-11	170	23	AAA	.260	.479	306	45	80	17	1	1	46	5
					Houston										Simms, Mike	R-R	6-4	185	25	AAA	.213	.217	136	7	29	3	1	1	12	2
					Houston										Young, Gerald	S-R	6-2	185	27	AAA	.246	.328	297	53	73	20	2	15	59	2
					Houston															.203	.301	123	18	25	5	0	3	16	1	
					Houston															.304	.404	79	14	24	2	3	0	17	3	
					Houston															.218	.327	142	26	31	3	1	1	11	16	

Coaches — Bob Cluck; Matt Galante; Rudy Jaramillo; Ed Ott; Tom Spencer

The Best
in the Biz

DYNASTIES

By Kevin Kerrane

The Era of Parity arrived officially in 1991, heralded by a World Series between two of 1990's last-place teams. But parity has been a long-term trend. No team has won consecutive World Series since Billy Martin's New York Yankees of 1977-78. Only four teams since 1980 have captured back-to-back division titles. In the 1970s, 18 division winners were able to repeat.

Are dynasties still possible? The Oakland Athletics think so, and in 1992 they could rebound for their fourth American League pennant in five years. To do that, they probably will need to reanimate the arms of Dave Stewart and Bob Welch, and retune the egos of Rickey Henderson and Jose Canseco. They also will have to counteract the two great leveling forces in modern baseball: free agency and the amateur draft.

Free agency can turn middling teams into winners. Last year's triumphs by the Minnesota Twins and Atlanta Braves would have been unthinkable without key acquisitions such as Jack Morris, Mike Pagliarulo, Terry Pendleton, Rafael Belliard and Sid Bream. Free agency also makes it harder for winners to remain on top. A strong team today is more vulnerable to losing its stars, as the Twins, who lost Morris to the Toronto Blue Jays, can attest.

The effect of the amateur draft has been more gradual and cumulative. Since its inception in 1965, the draft has encouraged competitive balance by giving the worst teams an inside track on the best young talent. In baseball, unlike football or basketball, teams cannot trade away a drafting slot, although they may be required to surrender one as compensation for signing a free agent. The result is another subtle push toward parity.

These premises — an open market for veterans, a closed market for amateurs — exactly reverse the ground rules of baseball in the days of dynasties. Pro players used to be bound by a reserve clause, so that stars could be stockpiled, while amateur prospects were available to the highest bidder. For more than 40 seasons, from the early 1920s to the mid-1960s, the Yankees seemed to monopolize talent at both ends of the pipeline.

Before the lively ball was introduced around 1920, the Yankees were just another ballclub. Consistent winners in the dead ball days included the New York Giants, Boston Red Sox and Chicago White Sox, plus two teams that actually led sportswriters to adopt the term "dynasty" — the Chicago Cubs and Philadelphia Athletics.



Eddie Collins, Philadelphia Athletics (1906-14, 1927-30)

Chicago Cubs 1906-10

**4 pennants in 5 years
2 world championships
Manager: Frank Chance**

The Cubs won a record 116 games in 1906, and played .693 ball over a five-year span. In an era dominated by defense, they set all-time marks for yielding the fewest runs per game. They were fine fielders, although the famous combo of Tinker to Evers to Chance never led the league in double plays. The Cubs thrived with pitching: a five-year ERA of 1.99 with 148 shutouts.

Money player: Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, rhp

Brown's grotesque right hand, mangled in a childhood accident, enabled him to throw an exquisite curve. His other nickname, "Miner," captured the toughness of the blue-collar moundsman. In the Cubs' five glory years, Brown won 127 games (three-fourths of his decisions), worked extra duty in the bullpen and outdueled the glamorous Christy Mathewson nine straight times. Brown's highest ERA in those years was 1.86.

Philadelphia Athletics 1910-14

**4 pennants in 5 years
3 world championships
Manager: Connie Mack**

"It had everything," Mack said of his favorite team. "Pitching, hitting, defense, speed, and brains." In 1910 the A's recorded the league's highest batting average (.266) and lowest ERA (1.79). The pitching staff was anchored by brilliant veterans Chief Bender, Eddie Plank and Jack Coombs. The infielders were so good that Mack said he wouldn't take \$100,000 for them. (That vast sum made headlines in 1911.) When the upstart Federal League forced a bidding war for players, Mack did sell off his stars. In 1915 the A's plummeted to last place, where they remained for seven seasons.

Money player: Eddie Collins, 2b

Head and heart of "The \$100,000 Infield," Collins was a natural leader — aggressive, cocky and intelligent. He was the best sign-stealer in the league. In a typical championship season, the lefthanded-hitting Collins would bat .345, steal 55 bases and lead second



Lefty Grove, Philadelphia Athletics (1925-33)

basemen in fielding and double plays. Only 27 when Mack sold him to the White Sox for \$50,000, Collins eventually played 25 seasons and amassed 3,311 hits.

New York Yankees 1921-28

6 pennants in 8 years
3 world championships
Manager: Miller Huggins

Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert's idea of a perfect day at the ballpark was "when the Yankees score eight runs in the first inning, and then slowly pull away." The squad led by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig was more likely to score eight runs late in a game, as shadows fell across the Yankee Stadium infield. Before the advent of night games, the Yanks' game-breaking rallies were known as "Five O'Clock Lightning." The 1927 team, often cited as the greatest of all time, hit .307, slugged .489 and averaged 6.33 runs. Its pitching staff led the league in ERA and shutouts, and four members — Waite Hoyt, Urban Shocker, Wilcy Moore and Herb Penneck — posted winning percentages above .700.

Money player: Babe Ruth, rf

Just as the Yankees defined the new age of power baseball, Ruth defined the Yankees. His deeds were as gargantuan as his appetites. Ruth's 60 home runs in 1927 topped every other team in the league. In the 1928 Series, the second straight four-game sweep for the Yanks, he was 10 for 16 with a slugging percentage of 1.375. No other hitter, said sportswriter Paul Gallico, "managed to convey the message of impending doom to a pitcher that Babe Ruth did with the cock of his head, the position of his legs, and the little gentle waving of the bat, feathered in his two big paws."

Philadelphia Athletics 1929-31

3 pennants in 3 years
2 world championships
Manager: Connie Mack

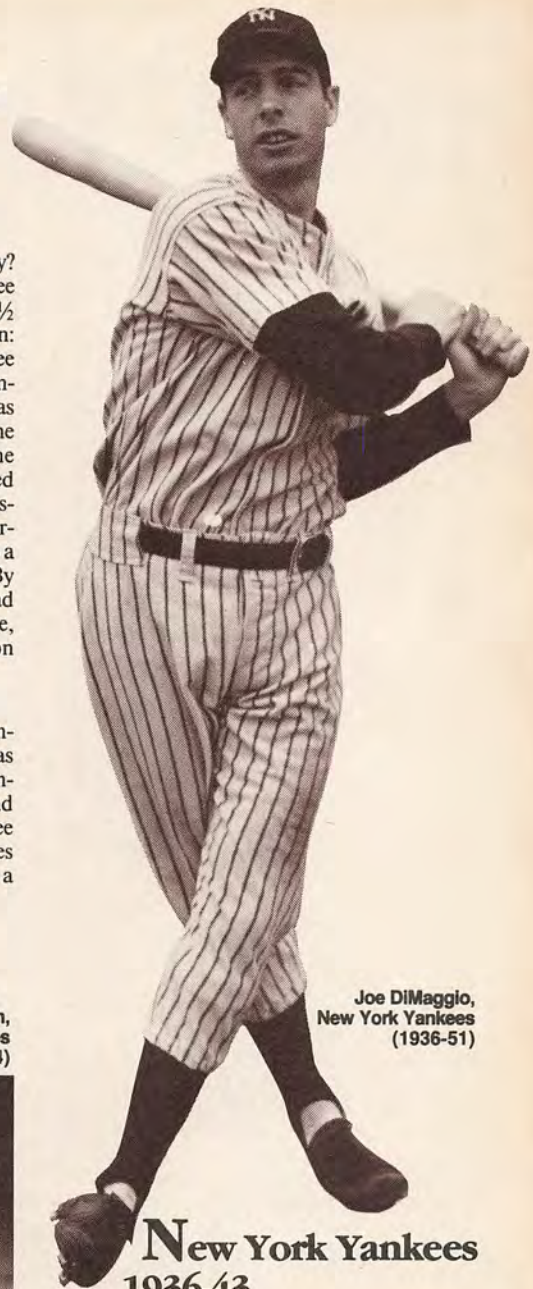
How good was Mack's second dynasty? Good enough to beat Ruth's Yankees three years running — by margins of 18, 8, and 13½ games. The A's had sluggers of their own: Al Simmons knocked in 450 runs in three seasons, and a young ox named Jimmie Foxx hit homers as towering as Ruth's. Catcher Mickey Cochrane averaged .345 and captained the league's best defense. Mack claimed to have the highest-paid team in history, and as gate receipts eroded during The Great Depression, he broke up a champion club for the second time. By 1934, Simmons, Foxx, and Cochrane had been sold, along with pitcher Lefty Grove, and the A's checked into the second division for 14 years.

Money player: Lefty Grove, lhp

Grove was lean and mean — even his teammates were afraid of him — but his talent was greater than his temper. In Philadelphia's pennant seasons, he won 79, lost 15, saved 18, and led the league in ERA and strikeouts all three years. When he went 31-4 in 1931, the losses were by scores of 1-0, 2-1, 4-3 and 7-5. At a time when hitters ruled the game, they still could be humbled by Grove's explosive fastball.



Babe Ruth,
New York Yankees
(1920-34)



Joe DiMaggio,
New York Yankees
(1936-51)

New York Yankees 1936-43

7 pennants in 8 years
6 world championships
(4 straight: 1936-39)
Manager: Joe McCarthy

The Yankees dominated both leagues from mid-Depression to mid-War. They won pennants by an average margin of 14 games, and lost a total of nine games in seven World Series. Among their stars in 1936 were Lou Gehrig and Tony Lazzeri, veterans of the 1927-28 powerhouse. Catcher Bill Dickey proved to be almost as durable as Gehrig. In the batter's box, Dickey combined power and consistency; behind the plate he was peerless as a handler of pitchers. The mound aces, in succession, were Lefty Gomez, Red Ruffing and Spud Chandler. The staff also included relief specialist Johnny Murphy, who saved 107 games before the "save" even existed as a statistic.

Money player: Joe DiMaggio, cf

As a rookie on the 1936 squad, DiMaggio led the AL in triples. The following year, he led the league in homers. In his first seven seasons, before going off to war in 1943, DiMaggio knocked in 930 runs and struck out about

Continued on page 76

DAMN YANKEES

"The Yankees are the least popular of all baseball clubs," said journalist A.J. Liebling, "because they win, which leaves nothing to 'if' about." For a whole generation after World War II, the Yankees made *if* irrelevant.

Several American League races in the 1950s were over by midsummer. In 1953, their fifth straight championship season under Casey Stengel, the Yankees coasted home after winning 18 straight in June, including 15 on the road. During the streak, they outscored opponents 129 to 44.

Even more frustrating to rivals were the close games and close races decided by the Yankees' relentless excellence. They were the kings of September, and of the ninth inning. In late-season pennant drives against the Cleveland Indians (1951, 1952, 1955), the Yankees were a juggernaut grinding to narrow but seemingly inevitable victories. George Steinbrenner, then a college kid, was a Cleveland fan who secretly admired the Yankees. "They had these gray uniforms, but there was the hue to them," he said. "I'll never forget them. Being in Cleveland, you couldn't root for them. But you could boo them in awe."

Why were the Yankees so good? Mainly because they *had been* good for a quarter-century, and because they were able to exploit six strengths: scouting, training, trading, depth, defense and pride.

- To acquire young talent, the Yankees depended less on bonus money than on top-notch scouts. In the East, Paul Krichell, the man who discovered Lou Gehrig in 1922, signed players such as Phil Rizzuto and Whitey Ford. In the West, Joe Devine, "the human divining rod," found Gene Woodling, Gil McDougald, Jerry Coleman and Bobby Brown. In the Midwest, Tom Greenwade offered young Mickey Mantle a bonus of \$1,400. No other team even made a bid.

- Once signed, a Yankees prospect entered a sophisticated program of instruction. Only the minor league networks of the Cardinals and Dodgers, both built by Branch Rickey, rivaled the Yankees' training system. To expedite development of the most gifted prospects, Stengel devised an "instructional" camp prior to spring training in 1951. Mantle, McDougald, and pitcher Tom Morgan attended that first camp, and all jumped to the majors that season.

- The Yankees' talent harvest enabled them to trade boldly. Often they gave up quantity for quality, throwing in extra players to obtain one piece of a puzzle. In need of pitching in 1955, they acquired Don Larsen and Bob Turley in a 18-player swap with the Orioles. All through the 1950s they bought pennant insurance by picking up veterans such as Johnny Mize, Johnny Sain, Jim Konstanty and Enos Slaughter.

- The typical Yankees roster was so deep that the bench and bullpen became almost as important as the starting lineup. On offense Stengel could tinker with lefty/righty switches all through a game and all through a season, usually platooning at first base and in left field. The Yankees' hallmark was a versatile athlete, capable at several posi-

tions. Yogi Berra and Elston Howard were good outfielders as well as fine catchers. Gil McDougald was capable at second base, third base and shortstop. Stengel also spread out the pitching workload. In the 1950s, Yankees starters recorded only half as many 20-win seasons as the Indians staff, but Yankees relievers routinely led the league in saves.

- Al Lopez spent most of his managerial career chasing the Yankees. He beat them twice — with the Indians in 1954 and the White Sox in 1959 — but finished second 10 times. "Everyone raves about the power of the Yankees," Lopez said, "but their success over the years has been mainly due to great defense." Stengel often said his team had no room for "them fellas who drive in two runs and let in three." He believed that most games are lost, not won, and that double plays are the best index of pennant potential. Under Stengel the Yankees averaged almost 190 twin killings a season, more than any other team. The tradition continued under Ralph Houk. The 1961 powerhouse clubbed a major league record 240 homers and also led the league in double plays and fielding percentage.

- Stengel and Houk were tacticians and teachers. They rarely needed to be motivators, because Yankees players took care of that themselves. The roster balanced cheerful role players (Bill Skowron, Irv Noren, Joe Collins) with red-asses (Vic Raschi, Billy Martin, Gene Woodling) who became furious if left out of a lineup or taken out of a game. Both types helped create a winning atmosphere; they *expected* success and policed themselves to achieve it. Younger players who stayed out late or failed to hustle were reprimanded by veterans like Eddie Lopat and Allie Reynolds. Lopat recalled: "We'd corral them

and say, 'Hey, we're going into Cleveland or Chicago, and you'd better get your ass in bed because you're taking money out of my pocket.' Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford used to say that we were the meanest men they ever knew."

★ ★ ★

Despite their virtues, the Yankees were easy to dislike. Individual players, like Berra and McDougald, could charm opposing players and fans. But as a team, the Yankees were neither gracious in victory nor generous in defeat. They called the rest of the American League "The Sorry Seven" and scorned the Brooklyn Dodgers as "losers." Even more annoying was a corporate personality, humorless and smug, emanating from the office of general manager George Weiss. In the name of the "dignity of baseball," the Yankees engineered Bill Veeck's departure from the game in 1953. Two years later, when the Philadelphia Athletics moved to Kansas City, Weiss persuaded K.C. owner Arnold Johnson to hire as his general manager Parke Carroll, a Yankees employee for more than 20 years. By 1960, Weiss and Carroll had completed 17 trades involving 68 players, bringing to New York such commodities as Bobby Shantz, Ryne Duren and Roger Maris. The fence-busting club of 1961 included nine players procured from the A's. Cleveland GM Hank Greenberg said, "It must be great to have your own farm system in the same league."

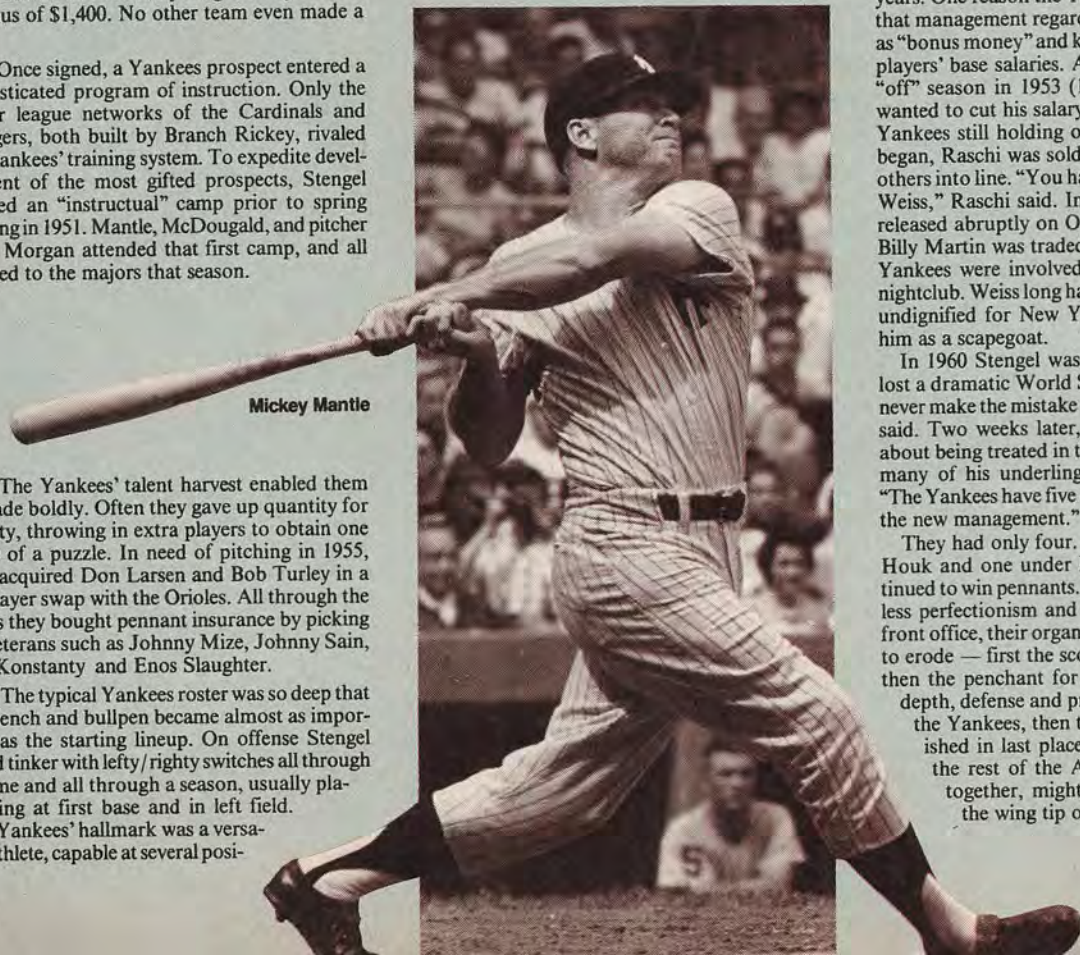
The Yankees remained all white until Elston Howard joined the team in 1955. Weiss claimed the organization had been looking for "a Negro ballplayer good enough to make the Yankees." In fact, he did not want to attract black fans; he said privately that the "boxholders from Westchester" would dislike sitting near "that sort of crowd." When Weiss no longer could justify keeping Puerto Rican phenom Vic Power in the minor leagues, he traded him, offering as explanation that Power was too showy and temperamental to be a Yankee.

The club's treatment of veteran players was cold even by the standards of those pre-union years. One reason the Yankees played so hard is that management regarded World Series checks as "bonus money" and kept chipping away at the players' base salaries. After Vic Raschi had an "off" season in 1953 (13-6, 3.33 ERA), Weiss wanted to cut his salary by 25 percent. With 11 Yankees still holding out when spring training began, Raschi was sold in order to frighten the others into line. "You have a short memory, Mr. Weiss," Raschi said. In 1956 Phil Rizzuto was released abruptly on Old Timers' Day. In 1957 Billy Martin was traded after he and four other Yankees were involved in a minor fracas at a nightclub. Weiss long had considered Martin too undignified for New York pinstripes and used him as a scapegoat.

In 1960 Stengel was fired after the Yankees lost a dramatic World Series to the Pirates. "I'll never make the mistake of being 70 again," Casey said. Two weeks later, Weiss was fired. Bitter about being treated in the way he had treated so many of his underlings, Weiss told reporters, "The Yankees have five more years at most under the new management."

They had only four. For three seasons under Houk and one under Berra, the Yankees continued to win pennants. But without the old ruthless perfectionism and icy business logic in the front office, their organizational strengths began to erode — first the scouting and farm systems, then the penchant for bold trades, and finally depth, defense and professional pride. In 1966 the Yankees, then the property of CBS, finished in last place. The tears shed around the rest of the American League, added together, might almost have moistened the wing tip of a flea.

—Kevin Kerrane



Mickey Mantle

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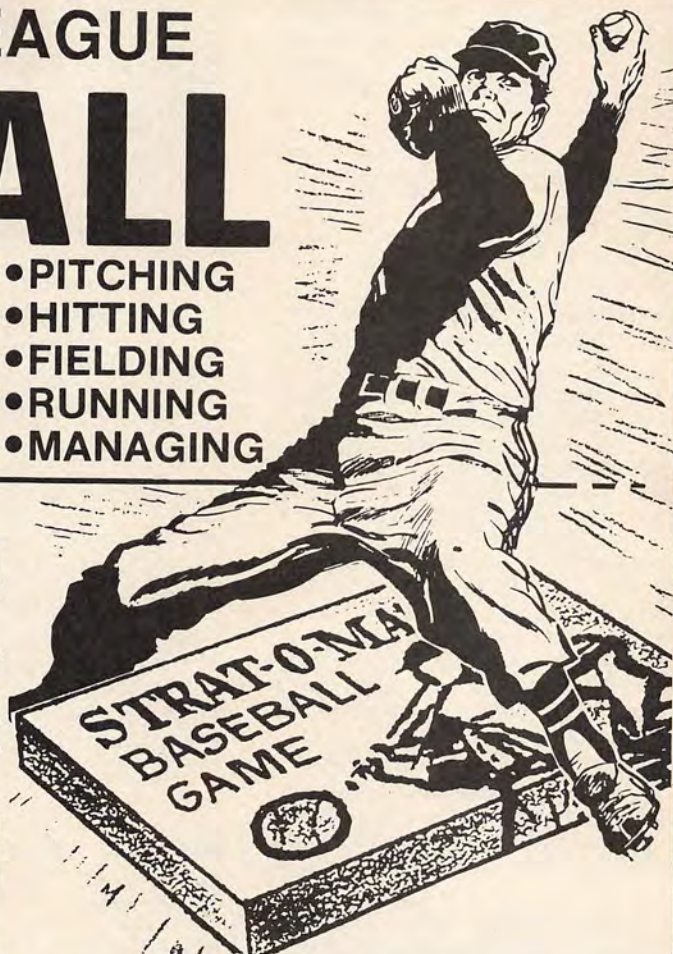
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once a week. His multi-dimensional talents were showcased in the center-field vastness of Yankee Stadium. "If you ever saw him play, you'll never forget him," said sportswriter Jimmy Cannon. "No one ran with such unhurried grace."

Brooklyn Dodgers 1947-56

6 pennants in 10 years

1 world championship

Managers: Burt Shotton, Leo Durocher, Chuck Dressen, Walter Alston

The greatness of the postwar Dodgers is overshadowed by five World Series losses to the Yankees — three in the seventh game — and by two pennants (1950, 1951) that slipped away in the last inning of the last game of the season. But the Dodgers were wonderfully versatile, perennially leading the National League in home runs, stolen bases and fielding percentage. They not only broke the color line, they were the first truly integrated team. Three of their black pioneers — Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe — won a total of five MVP awards. The farm system kept producing bumper harvests. In 1952 and 1953, six Dodger regulars made the All-Star team.

Money player: Pee Wee Reese, ss

"Pee Wee was the glue to that whole ball-club," said Andy Pafko, a teammate of Reese in 1951 and '52. "He was smart, helped with the bat, was a good hit-and-run man, a great

Roy Campanella, Brooklyn Dodgers (1948-57)



The Dynasts

Money players are pivot points of excellence for a team. They personify the qualities that set the team apart, and show how much the continuity of dynasties has depended on defense, durability and versatile athletic skills.

That's why it is instructive to imagine a lineup of such players. Call them The Dynasts — the team leaders of the 10 best teams in baseball history:

C	Yogi Berra
1B	Tony Perez
2B	Eddie Collins
3B	Brooks Robinson
SS	Pee Wee Reese
LF	Joe Rudi
CF	Joe DiMaggio
RF	Babe Ruth
RHP	Three Finger Brown
LHP	Lefty Grove

The Dynasts would have power, speed, intelligence, pride, and a clubhouse full of championship trophies. Here's hoping that such ballplayers still flourish in the Era of Parity.

baserunner — and he was the captain, like a manager on the field." Teammates regarded Reese as "Captain" off the field as well, and as a Southerner he was able to ease the acceptance of black players. He was a youngster in 1941, the first time the club lost a Series to the Yankees. In 1955, at age 37, Reese fielded the ground ball that beat the Yanks and gave Brooklyn its first world championship.

New York Yankees 1947-64

15 pennants in 18 seasons

11 world championships

(5 straight: 1949-53)

Managers: Bucky Harris, Casey Stengel, Ralph Houk, Yogi Berra

The Ming Dynasty of China lasted 276 years (1368-1644). To many baseball fans, the Yankees' postwar dynasty seemed just as interminable.

Money player: Yogi Berra, c

Berra was the only man to wear a Yankees uniform every season from 1947 to 1964, and the team's success is reflected in his lifetime World Series records of 75 games and 71 hits. "It is not possible to exaggerate his importance," said sportswriter Red Smith. "He has been the keystone, the binder, the adhesive element that has held this team together when everything else has changed." Still an awkward catcher in 1949, Berra became a Stengel project and quickly turned into a first-rate defender. Famous as a bad-ball hitter, he was in fact

the most dangerous hitter in baseball from the seventh inning on. In 1964, his first year as a manager, Berra piloted New York to another Series, but was fired after the Cardinals won in seven games. His departure marked the end of the greatest Yankees dynasty of them all.

Baltimore Orioles 1969-74

5 division titles and 3 pennants in 6 years

1 world championship

Manager: Earl Weaver

Weaver described his strategy as "pitching and three-run homers." He had plenty of both. Most of the three-run homers came from Frank Robinson and Boog Powell, a fearsome right-left tandem. The big three — Jim Palmer, Dave McNally and Mike Cuellar — won 341 games in six years, an average of 57 per season. When Pat Dobson joined the rotation in 1971, all four starters won 20 or more. They did it without a relief ace; the bullpen totaled only 22 saves. In their streak of consecutive pennants (1969-71), the Orioles swept each league championship series in three games; their pitchers yielded only 63 hits (.205) in the nine victories.

Money player:

Brooks Robinson, 3b

Robinson personified the third dimension of Baltimore's success: great defense. Shortstop Mark Belanger and centerfielder Paul Blair were brilliant glove men, and the ambidextrous Robinson, winner of 16 consecutive Gold Glove awards, played third as if he had come down from a higher league. He matured into an offensive threat, averaging 20 homers and 90 RBIs in the Orioles' pennant seasons. Early in Robinson's career, when he was struggling at the plate, manager Paul Richards planned to farm him out, but Orioles pitchers begged him to relent. "They didn't care if Brooks never got a hit," Richards said. "They just wanted him in there."

Oakland Athletics 1971-75

5 division titles and 3 pennants in 5 years

3 world championships

Managers: Dick Williams, Alvin Dark

Owner Charlie Finley invested in young players, dressed them in flashy uniforms, and encouraged them to adopt colorful nicknames (like Catfish and Blue Moon) and grow moustaches. The A's were scruffy and rowdy, and more were injured in clubhouse altercations than on the field. They won with power, defense, versatility and great pitching. In 1972 every Oakland starter had an ERA less than 3.00. Manager Dick Williams, tired of fighting with the owner and players, quit after the 1973 Series victory. The A's then bickered their way to a third straight championship.

Money player: Joe Rudi, lf

An island of sanity in a sea of vanity, Rudi didn't brawl, snipe or even complain. He simply was a complete player — a .300 hitter with a sweet line-drive stroke, and a smooth fielder with ideal baseball instincts. "You can't win a pennant without a guy like that," said teammate Sal Bando. Rudi's brilliance in left

field was crystallized by poet Tom Clark, who described a catch made in the 1973 league championship series:

*with one hand propped
against the wall he
crouched, and leaped
and hung motionless
in a bath of light
his glove
a foot above the top
speared it!*

*— and then he fell back down
into the sound*

— from "Great Catch," © Tom Clark 1974

Cincinnati Reds

1970-76

5 division titles and 4 pennants
in 7 years

2 world championships

Manager: Sparky Anderson

The Big Red Machine was as conservative as the Athletics were hairy. Team codes forbade facial hair and mandated low-cut stirrups with knickers hiked high. That corporate correctness emphasized the "machine" image, but the Reds were a collection of lively individual talents. Johnny Bench won 10 consecutive Gold Gloves and set the all-time record for home runs by a catcher. Pete Rose made 17 All-Star teams at four different positions.



Joe Morgan, Cincinnati Reds (1972-79)

His team-first attitude transcended his 205 hits and 110 runs a season; it was the source of fire in his hell-for-leather baserunning. In 1976 peppercorn Joe Morgan, 5-7, 150 pounds, led the NL in on-base average and slugging percentage. That year, the Reds led both leagues in batting average, home runs, triples, doubles, runs and fielding percentage — and swept the league championship series and World Series. Starting pitchers Don Gullett and Gary Nolan were plagued by sore arms, and Anderson earned the nickname "Captain Hook" by calling on his bullpen early and often.

Money player: Tony Perez, 1b

Perez, one of the great run producers in baseball history, had a remarkable ability to deliver the clutch hit. "If the game lasted long enough, Perez would win it," said former Reds manager Dave Bristol. "He was a terrific hitter with men on base." From 1967 to 1976, Perez knocked in more runs (1,028) than anyone in the majors, and averaged 102 RBIs a season during the club's dynasty years. Versatile defensively, he was moved from first base to third in '67 to make room in the lineup for slugger Lee May, then switched back to first in '72. He was the driving wheel of the Big Red Machine.

Kevin Kerrane has written four books on baseball, including the highly acclaimed *Dollar Sign on the Muscle*, *The World of Baseball Scouting*.

Worst in the Biz

The 1935 Boston Braves, who had signed Babe Ruth prior to the season, finished 61½ games out of first place. The rotation of the 1904 Washington Senators sported three 20-game losers. The 1939 St. Louis Browns lost 59 games at home, a major league record for ineptitude.

As sorry as these ballclubs were, none rate among the five worst in major league history. It's a tough call, selecting the all-time failures, and tougher ranking them. Baseball's modern era spans nine decades, each having nominees worthy of dubious distinction.

Expansion breeds futility, and few teams have been as futile as the 1962 New York Mets, the losingest team in the modern era. The Mets endured 120 undoings (40 victories), and might have lost 122 had two games not been rained out.

"We were just horseshit," says Al Jackson, star lefty of the '62 club. Manager Casey Stengel had World Series credentials, but the Mets didn't have the talent to be competitive, particularly on defense. They led the majors in errors (210), including an especially egregious one committed against the Dodgers. Catcher Choo Choo Coleman had Maury Wills picked off at first base, but his snap throw hit first baseman Marv Throneberry in the forehead and caromed into center field. Wills scored standing up.

Non-achievers generally flounder defensively and can't score runs, though neither case always holds true. The 1928 Philadelphia Phillies (43-109), for instance, ranked fourth in the NL in home runs and third in doubles, and their fielding percentage (.971) equaled the league average. A rookie and future Hall of Famer named Chuck Klein joined the

team in July and batted .360 with 11 homers in just 253 at-bats. Freddy Leach (.304) and Pinky Whitney (.301) combined for 23 homers.

Still the Phillies lost — often at home (26-49), more often on the road (17-60). Why? The lineup was tailored for Philadelphia's Baker Bowl, whose right-field fence — a 40-foot high, corrugated-tin wall — was only 280 feet from home plate. Lefty-swinging Klein and Co. loved it. So did the opposition. The Phillies hit 54 homers and scored 360 runs at home, but gave up a major league-high 67 homers and 521 runs. On the road, their 300 runs scored and 31 homers were the league's worst and third-worst totals. "THE PHILLIES USE LIFEBOUYS SOAP," heralded an advertisement hanging high on the Tin Monster. Yeah, and they still stunk.

Sometimes winning isn't in the cards. Pitchers throw good pitches that get hit. Batters hit line drives right at people. Slow rollers find chalk lines and stay fair. If it goes on and on, a club falls into a funk and can't seem to find a way out. Welcome to Baltimore, 1988.

The Orioles began the season historically bad, losing their first 21 games and being outscored 129-44. Since 1900, only the 1961 Phillies lost more games consecutively (23), and no club comes close to matching the Zer-O's piteous start.

It's called "finding a way to lose." A walk here, an error there, a blown lead — next thing you know you're 21 games in the hole. Baltimore never recovered. The Orioles finished 54-107, never won more than four games in a row and posted major league worsts in runs (550), opponents' runs (789), batting average (.238), opponents' batting average (.274) and ERA (4.54).

Reasons for failure vary, and often are related to a franchise not having enough

money. But the one symptom that plagues every chronic loser is pitching — or lack of it. Case in point: the 1916 Philadelphia Athletics.

The Athletics had 36 victories, and were lucky to win that many. They couldn't score runs, which posed a problem because the pitchers couldn't find the plate. The staff issued 715 walks — most in the majors and 206 more than the AL average — and had a major league-worst 3.84 ERA. The club lost 117 times, finishing 40 games out of seventh place.

All of which contributed to a close pennant race among the other AL clubs, who fattened their records on A's pitching. Said manager Connie Mack: "We are the little tonic team of baseball. We come along when any other club is sick and get it back to health."

Another club that proved to be an elixir for opponents was the 1952 Pittsburgh Pirates, losers of 112 (58 on the road) of 154 games. After the season, the team removed "Pittsburgh" from its road jerseys. The city name didn't reappear until 1990.

What the '52 Pirates lacked in talent, they made up for in inexperience. "We were so bad, our opponents knew our signs better than we did," says Dick Groat, the club's rookie shortstop. Pittsburgh ranked last in the NL in every significant offensive, defensive and pitching category, except stolen bases (fifth) and double plays (third). Of course, a club that allows more than 13 baserunners every nine innings is bound to make its share of double plays.

What else did the Pirates lack? "Lots of things," says Groat, echoing what is indicative of all baseball's worst teams. "To lose that many games, you've got to have a lot of deficiencies."

— Bill Nelson

Bill James On Fantasy Baseball

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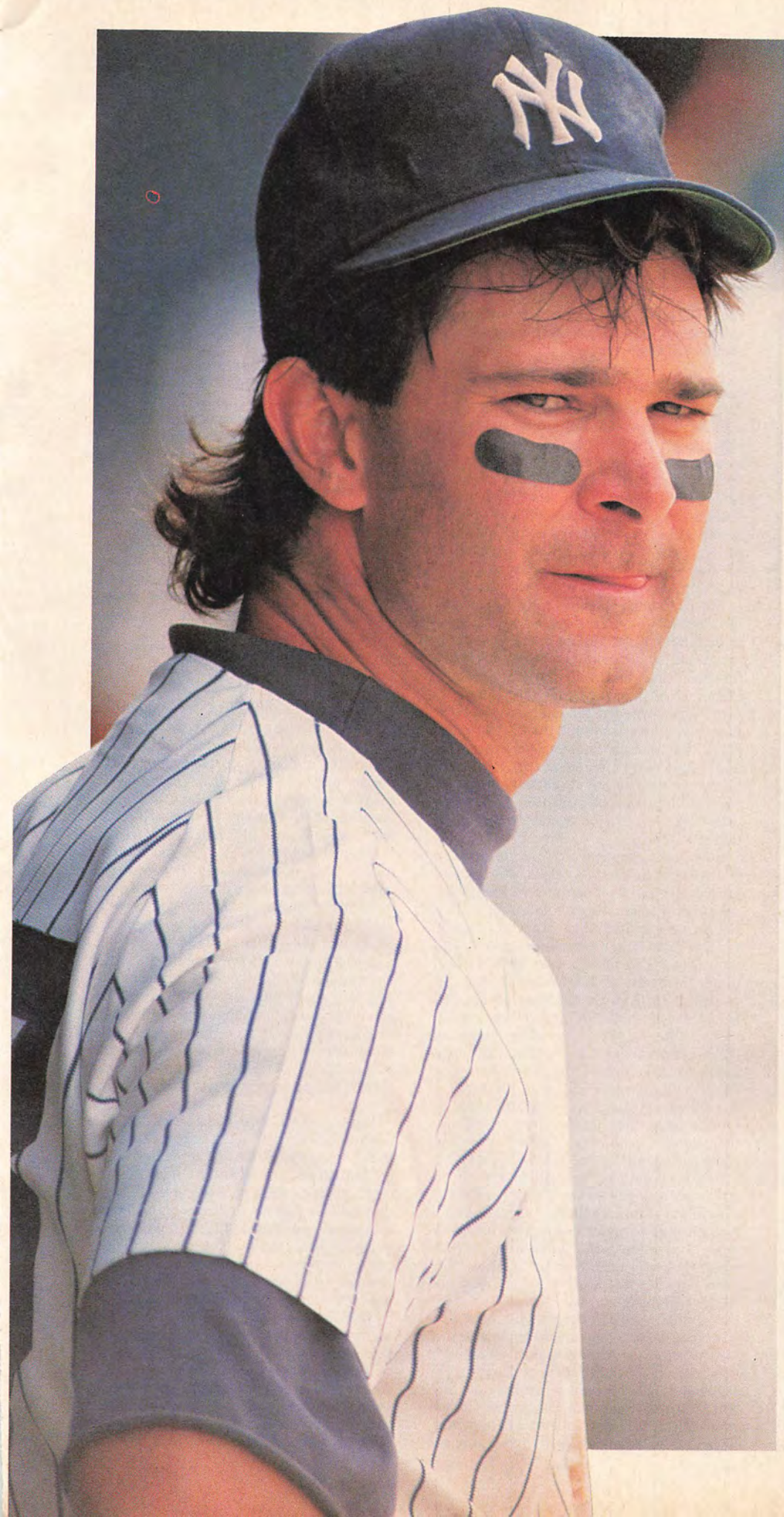
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AL EAST

1991 STANDINGS

	W-L	PCT	GB
Toronto	91-71	.562	—
Boston	84-78	.519	7
Detroit	84-78	.519	7
Milwaukee	83-79	.512	8
New York	71-91	.438	20
Baltimore	67-95	.414	24
Cleveland	57-105	.352	34

5-YEAR SCAN

	W-L	PCT	AVG. DIV. FINISH
Toronto	449-361	.554	1.8
Boston	422-388	.521	2.4
Milwaukee	416-394	.514	4.0
Detroit	408-402	.504	3.0
New York	386-422	.478	5.2
Baltimore	351-457	.434	5.2
Cleveland	346-464	.427	6.0

1992

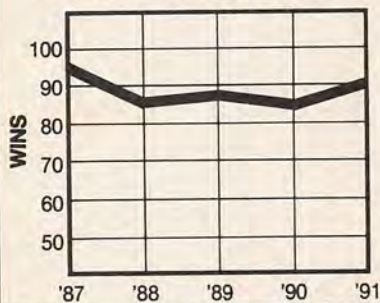
1. Toronto
2. Boston
3. Baltimore
4. Detroit
5. Milwaukee
6. New York
7. Cleveland

Don Mattingly, New York

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

1991 RECORD: 91-71 MANAGER: CITO GASTON STADIUM: SKYDOME (50,516)

5-YEAR SCAN



The Blue Jays thought they could win it all last season. "We felt it was our year," says general manager Pat Gillick. "We felt we had done everything to win, that we had the best team."

It didn't happen. In the American League Championship Series, the Blue Jays split with Minnesota in the Metrodome, then blew 2-0, 1-0 and 5-2 leads at home. Despite their efforts to fashion a championship club — trading for Roberto Alomar, Joe Carter, Devon White, Candy Maldonado and Tom Candiotti — the "Blow Jays" again came up short.

Toronto has won three AL East titles the past seven years, and finished two games out three other times. "Yet we're considered to be losers," says Kelly Gruber. "It's unfair, but sometime we have to go win it all and everyone will shut up once and for all."

It's not easy playing above the border. Travel and going through customs are wearying, and trades are difficult to make because so many players have no-Canada clauses in their contracts. On the other hand, the Blue Jays organization is one of the most progressive in baseball. It develops players and pursues key acquisitions aggressively.

Some scouts have found fault with the Blue Jays rotation, claiming it never has had a true No. 1 starter. No problem. Toronto bought one last December — World Series hero Jack Morris — for \$15 million.

Morris could anchor the staff and take pressure off Dave Stieb, who is coming off back surgery. Another free-agent acquisition, Dave Winfield, brings 18 years' experience. "We will be good, maybe very good," says manager Cito Gaston. "But is that good enough? Until we win it all, nothing will be good enough."

PITCHING From top to bottom, the Blue Jays had the best pitching in the league last season. The staff finished first in ERA (3.50), shutouts (16), opponents' batting average (.238) and saves (60). They surrendered the fifth-fewest walks and third-fewest home

runs. The addition of Jack Morris and return to health of Dave Stieb make a formidable group even stronger.

STARTING PITCHING Jack Morris is the definition of a No. 1 starter. "He's a guy who'll break down the door to the manager's office to get the ball," says a scout. "He's a stopper, a big-game pitcher, and there aren't many of those guys around." The evidence supports the claim. Morris is 4-0 with a 1.54 ERA in five World Series games, 7-1 in post-season play. Conversely, Dave Stieb and Jimmy Key, mainstays of the Blue Jays rotation the past several years, have a combined two wins in nine postseason starts.

Morris, who turns 37 in May, appears to have lost very little. He doesn't throw as hard as he once did, but his late-breaking slider is intact and he gets hitters to chase his nasty forkball, which invariably is out of the zone. Described as "the Secretariat of pitchers," Morris has averaged 242 innings since 1979. Last season he was third in the AL in innings (247), tied for third in complete games (10) and won at least 15 games for the 11th time in his career. Getting out of the first inning was Morris' biggest problem in 1991. Forty percent of the runs scored against him came in the initial stanza.

Stieb, who averaged 222 innings prior to '91, didn't pitch after May last season because of shoulder and back injuries. He eventually submitted to back surgery and undertook a rigorous rehabilitation program to be ready for this season. A more mature person and pitcher at 34, Stieb no longer berates teammates for errors or blasts the manager for removing him from games. He was 51-22 (.699) from 1988 through '90, and retains the 90-mph fastball he likes to establish inside and the world-class slider as his out pitch. Some scouts feel that a year's hiatus from throwing 70 sliders a start may add zip to his stuff.

Lefthander Jimmy Key is no Jim Abbott-type dominator, but keeps hitters off-balance with a moving, 85-mph fastball, sweeping curve and change-up he turns over. His ability to work inside with his fastball and throw strikes with his full assortment (2.1 walks per nine innings for his career) are keys to his success. One of two major league pitchers to have won 12 or more games in each of the past seven seasons (Frank Viola is the other), Key helps himself with the glove and an outstanding pickoff move.

Righthander Todd Stottlemyre, who won 15 games last year and limited opponents to a .235 average, has impressive stuff, including a 91- to 92-mph fastball he likes to ride in on hitters and a first-rate pair of breaking pitches. But Stottlemyre may be scratching the surface of his talent. If he does a better job of getting ahead in the count, he won't have to come

right down Broadway with as many fat fastballs. He also needs to change speeds better.

Flamethrower Juan Guzman came out of nowhere (actually Syracuse) last season and won 10 games, including five in September/October, then captured the Jays' only playoff victory. In his 23 major league starts, Guzman limited batters to a .197 average and struck out 123 in 139 innings. The 25-year-old righthander has a hard slider to complement his explosive, mid-90s fastball and a straight change he needs to use more. Before dispatching Guzman directly to Cooperstown, two points should be noted: 1) He was used judiciously, averaging approximately six innings per start, and never left in a position in which he could fail; and 2) He had trouble getting the ball over in the minors. Still, Guzman is a pretty special No. 5 starter.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

RELIEF PITCHING Cito Gaston, like Jimmy Williams before him, has been criticized for being too quick with the hook, getting relievers up and down too much, and blowing out his bullpen. For the record, Jays relievers made 56 more appearances last year than the Twins bullpen. Gaston's starters had a 3.49 ERA, while Tom Kelly's had a 3.77 mark.

With lefthander David Wells again taking up residence in the pen, the Toronto relief corps unquestionably is the best and deepest in the major leagues. It all stops with 34-year-old righthander Tom Henke, a dominating closer who never has received his just due. Although he breaks down on occasion, Henke has averaged 10.3 strikeouts per nine innings and compiled a 2.68 ERA in his career. He gets his saves (32 in 35 opportunities last year) with an economy of pitches, getting ahead of hitters with well-located 92-mph fastballs and putting them away with sinister forkballs. Henke limited batters to a .184 average last season.

Righthander Duane Ward's stuff has been described as the best in the league. He throws in the mid- to high-90s, but more important, his fastball runs, darts and sinks like a medicine ball. The knock on Ward in the past was that he tended to get excited in tight circumstances. He put that behind him last season, going 23 for 25 in save situations. Ward can pitch every day — sometimes up to three innings — and maintain velocity. He has averaged 115 innings the past four seasons.

Then there is Mike Timlin, who finally blew out after a great '90 season in the minors, a sensational winter and 73 innings by the end of July. He developed a sore elbow, then a sore shoulder, and worked only 35 innings in the final two months. The young righthander showed a 90-something sinker, a hard, late-breaking slider and a mean closer's makeup.

The versatile Wells, who has a plus fastball and big overhand curve, won 14 games as a starter last year before being exiled to the bullpen in September because of a tired arm. Wells muffles lefties (.208 in '91) and has a rubber arm and an unflappable nature. He is adept holding runners, leading the AL last season in pickoffs (12). His propensity for gaining weight and giving up long balls (24 in '91) are concerns.

Lefty Ken Dayley, who missed nearly all of last season, will fill a spot if he recovers from an ear infection that left him with vertigo.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.5

CATCHING Pat Borders and Greg Myers provide a serviceable platoon, combining for 13 homers and 72 RBIs last season while catching all but 10 innings. Ed Sprague, a converted third baseman, should usurp full-time duty when his technical skills catch up with his physical tools.

Borders, the righty half of the platoon, is a free-swinging fastball hitter who can pull for power. Inexplicably, he had zero homers and five RBIs at the All-Star break last season before picking up the pace in the second half (5, 31). Borders has more arm strength and agility than Myers. He also is more demonstrative.

While Myers has softer hands and better instincts than his counterpart, he never has fully recovered from shoulder surgery in 1988 and needs everything working for him to throw out runners trying to steal (14 for 78 in '91). The lefty-swinging Myers tends to pull the ball with some extra-base punch (22 doubles, 8 home runs in 309 at-bats last season), but can't run at all.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

INFIELD "Roberto Alomar? I think he's one of the four or five best all-around players in our league," said a scout. "His instincts are tremendous." Heady praise for the Jays' 24-year-old second baseman, but his impact last season was indelible.

Alomar led the team in hitting (.295), was second in the AL in stolen bases (53) and had more extra-base hits (61) than new teammate Dave Winfield. Befitting his No. 2 spot in the order, Alomar had more sacrifices (16) than anyone else in the AL except Luis Sojo.

Alomar, a switch-hitter with a .286 average for his four big league seasons, is more accomplished from the left side (.316 in '91) but packs more power righthanded. Defensively, he has terrific range in all directions and turns the double play well.

Third baseman Kelly Gruber was slowed last season by a succession of aches and pains, beginning with a hand injury that wouldn't go away. Problems with the hand caused friction between Gruber and Cito Gaston, as the manager wondered aloud about Gruber's pain threshold. While it wasn't his year, Gruber managed to hit 20 home runs, saving his best for the stretch (6 homers, 23 RBIs in September/October).

Gruber, who had 31 homers and 118 RBIs in '90, has a fast bat but undisciplined approach. He should get more good pitches to hit with Winfield batting behind him this season. Although Gruber may be the most athletic third baseman in the AL, he can be an erratic thrower.

Tom Henke



The trade of power-hitting Fred McGriff may have put excessive pressure on first baseman John Olerud, considering the young man was a year removed from Washington State and never had played in the minors. Olerud stumbled out of the gate last season (15 RBIs in April and May), but found a groove in the second half (.280, 39 RBIs). Some feel Olerud takes too many pitches, others think he listens too much. Most predict his quick, textbook swing eventually will translate into .300, 25 homers, 100 RBIs. Nobody is predicting a Gold Glove.

Manuel Lee proved last year that he is no Tony Fernandez at shortstop, or even a reasonable facsimile. He faded badly as the season wore on, barely making contact in the second half (.202, eight extra-base hits). Lee was the only major league player with more than 100 strikeouts (107) and no home runs.

Eddie Zosky, who hit .264 with six home runs at Triple-A Syracuse last season, goes to spring training as the shortstop, nudging Lee into a utility role. Reports indicate that Zosky makes solid contact, but has too long a swing. He draws praise for his defense, especially his rifle arm.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

OUTFIELD There are no surprises with Joe Carter. He did last year what he had done previously in Cleveland and San Diego — produce runs and hustle every step of the season. Carter was among league leaders in home runs (33), RBIs (108), doubles (42), total bases (321) and slugging (.503). He didn't miss a game, extending his streak to 505.

Carter has averaged 30 home runs and 109 RBIs the past six seasons. However, he tries to do too much at times and chases a lot of pitches outside the strike zone. A competent defender with a below-average arm, Carter is better suited for left field than right.

As expected, centerfielder Devon White took charge in the outfield last season and conducted daily clinics on defense. "(Ken) Griffey might get a better jump, but White has more raw range," said a scout. "He makes everything look easy." What wasn't expected of White was his offense at the top of the order. The swift switch-hitter batted a career-best .282, scored 110 runs (tied for fourth in the AL) and stole 33 bases. Although he struck out 135 times, he balanced the flaw with 67 extra-base hits, including 17 home runs. Much of the credit for White's success belongs to Cito Gaston, who downplayed White's shortcomings at the plate and patted him on the back.

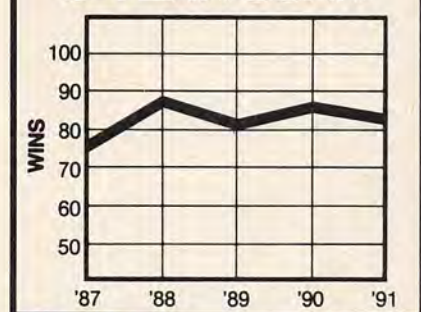
Derek Bell, the Jays' latest outfield prodigy, will get every opportunity to take right field. Selected the 1991 Minor League Player of the Year by *Baseball America*, Bell, 23, tore up the International League, leading in hitting (.346) and RBIs (93). Scouts report he has five tools, including blazing speed.

If Bell isn't ready, Candy Maldonado can step in. He played well after being acquired from Milwaukee last August, batting .277 with 7 homers and 28 RBIs for the Jays. Maldonado, who prefers the ball down, uses the whole field and has plus power. While his lack

BOSTON RED SOX

1991 RECORD: 84-78 MANAGER: BUTCH HOBSON STADIUM: FENWAY PARK (34,142)

5-YEAR SCAN



What is it with the Red Sox? They never have base-stealing speed. They've lacked home run production the past five seasons, never ranking above fifth in the American League East. They haven't developed a front-line starting pitcher since Roger Clemens arrived in 1984.

On the other hand, the Red Sox perennially are one of the best hitting clubs in the league. They've won the division three of the past six seasons. Attendance has increased annually since Clemens' rookie year. And the franchise is among baseball's wealthiest.

Here's the rub. For all their money, fans and first-place finishes, the Red Sox are curiously jinxed, and more or less have been since 1918, the last time they won a World Series. Last season, after showing contender-like qualities for most of September, they lost 11 of their final 14 games and ended up one game ahead of fourth-place Milwaukee.

Boston fans will tell you the Olde Towne Teame was cursed. The front office, however, blamed Joe Morgan, firing him as manager, then went to the winter meetings looking for a No. 2 pitcher for the rotation. The Red Sox shopped Mike Greenwell, Carlos Quintana, Mo Vaughn and Ellis Burks, but came away empty.

Just when it appeared they might have to make do with Clemens and filler, the Red Sox came to terms with free agent Frank Viola just before Christmas. The deal added another *maybe* for the 1992 season. *Maybe* new manager Butch Hobson will energize the troops. *Maybe* the players who had off years in '91 will rebound. And *maybe* Frankie V. will be the best No. 2 starter in the East.

If so, the Red Sox have Clemens to pitch games 1, 4 and 7 in the playoffs and World Series. Because of that, there is every reason to believe *this* is Boston's year — again.

PITCHING When they won the AL East in 1990, the Red Sox had the best starters' ERA 3.32 in the major leagues. Last season

the starters, except for Roger Clemens, were dreadfully erratic (4.22, including Clemens). In the 127 games that Clemens wasn't on the mound, starters averaged fewer than 5.2 innings. Eight pitchers, including four of the first six used as starters, spent time on the disabled list. Welcome, Frankie V.

STARTING PITCHING Arty staff that starts with Roger Clemens has a chance to be in the race. How well the Red Sox fill in behind Clemens determines how far they can go. In 1986 they had Bruce Hurst and Oil Can Boyd, and went to the World Series. In 1988, with Hurst and Mike Boddicker, and in 1990, with Boddicker and journeyman Greg Harris, they won division titles.

As late as last Sept. 22, the Red Sox were one pitch away (sound familiar?) from moving into a first-place tie with Toronto. If they had stayed close until the end, Clemens might have won his second MVP award instead of merely being the Cy Young winner for the third time. He led the AL in ERA (2.62), strikeouts (241), innings (271), shutouts (4) and starts (35). Clemens is an astounding 77-26 in his career when pitching after a Red Sox loss. He arrived in the majors in 1984, same as Dwight Gooden, and initially took a back seat to Gooden as the guy most likely to be the dominant pitcher of the era. No longer. Arm problems have reduced Doc to mortal status, while Rocket rolls along, pumping overpowering stuff into the strike zone with uncanny precision.

Clemens still can throw 94 to 95 mph, but no longer dares hitters to touch his high fastball as much as he did in, say, his historic 20-strikeout game in 1986. He has increased the use of his slider, one of the best in the AL. And his sharp-breaking forkball has become the bane of lefthanded batters, who scratched him for a .218 average last year. In addition to his physical qualities, Clemens is so competitive he ticks when on the mound.

After Clemens, no Red Sox pitcher worked more than 130 innings in a starting role last year. Enter Frank Viola. He hasn't missed a start since his junior year in high school, and has averaged 250 innings and 17 victories the past eight seasons. Viola made the All-Star team last year, but fell apart in the second half (3-10, 5.62 ERA) while trying to pitch with a sore left hand. A cyst under a fingernail and a persistent blister prevented Viola from gripping the ball properly for his trademark change-up and curve. He was throwing 89 to 91 mph in September, harder than in the first half, but couldn't change speeds. Viola's over-the-top delivery will aid him in Fenway Park, where his pitches will have the appearance of coming out of the center-field bleachers.

The second lefty in the rotation is Joe Hesketh, who began last season as the 10th man on the staff, but got a chance and fashioned a

10-4 record and 3.19 ERA in 17 starts. A top prospect in the mid-1980s, he had been plagued by shoulder injuries, and was dumped by the Expos and Braves in 1990. Hesketh's sinking fastball and straight change-up are enhanced by his deceptive motion, and his sharp-breaking slider eats up lefthanded batters. He shows no fear of the Green Monster, posting a 5-1 record and 2.08 ERA at Fenway last season. The question is whether Hesketh will hold up. He has a slight build and never has pitched enough innings in a season to qualify for the ERA championship.

Righthander Mike Gardiner, stolen from Seattle last spring for Rob Murphy, and lefty Kevin Morton both showed enough in their 1991 rookie seasons to indicate they can become solid starters. Each is expected to benefit from a reunion with pitching coach Rich Gale, who has been promoted from Triple-A Pawtucket.

Opposing teams often solved Gardiner's sinker-slider repertoire the third time around the order last year. Gale blames that on Gardiner's reluctance to use his change-up, which might be his best pitch. A tough kid, Gardiner will knock hitters off the plate, but doesn't throw hard enough to risk putting anything over the middle.

Morton, on the other hand, threw change-up after change-up last season, at the insistence of manager Joe Morgan. As his arm motion lengthened, Morton's tailing fastball plummeted from 87 mph to 82. Gale says Morton is most effective when changing speeds with his fastball, mixing in his quick, snapping curve and using his change-up as a third pitch.

Other possibilities include lefty Tom Bolton and righthander Dana Kiecker, the surprise contributors of 1990 who stumbled last season. Bolton won his first four decisions, but finished 7-9 with a 5.86 ERA as a starter. Kiecker won twice and suffered an elbow injury.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

RELIEF PITCHING Around Memorial Day, Jeff Reardon should move past Rollie Fingers as the all-time saves leader. A classic the-buck-stops-here closer, Reardon wants the ball, accepts whatever happens and never carries a bad outing into his next appearance. While he had 40 saves last season, the third time he's reached that level, Reardon blew nine opportunities, third most in the major leagues.

At 36, Reardon no longer throws with above-average velocity. But with his low three-quarters delivery, he can ride a fastball past batters for a high strike. Once he gets ahead, Reardon goes to his big, sweeping curve. In a role where makeup is the most important ingredient for success, Reardon remains one of the toughest men in the business. And he

should have an easier time of it without Joe Morgan, who occasionally would have Reardon warm up two, three or four times before using him, or sometimes not going to him.

A key to the staff is righthander Danny Darwin, who hasn't pitched since last July 4 and underwent shoulder surgery two months later. Darwin has been one of the premier swingmen in the game, though always has been more effective out of the bullpen (70-90 as a starter). When healthy, Darwin knocks hitters off the plate with his live 88-mph fastball, then gets them reaching for his big slurve. He changes speeds well and has superb command. If Darwin is able to resume working frequently and for extended spells, it will allow Reardon to become a one-inning guy.

Righthander Jeff Gray will have a role if he comes back from the stroke that ended his 1991 season on July 30. Gray, who had been salvaged off the scrap pile, appeared in 50 of the 98 games he was active and limited opponents to a .181 average. Greg Harris did a solid job in Gray's absence, going 4-2 with a 2.24 ERA in relief work. Lefthanded batters have trouble laying off Harris' big curve.

Since they owe him for two more years, the Red Sox need to find a role for lefthander Matt Young, who has done less with a great arm than any pitcher of his era. He didn't win a game after May 20 last season and has a 42-71 lifetime record as a starter. Give him a five-run cushion, ahead or behind, and Young can be untouchable, dealing a live 94-mph fastball and a quick slider that can buckle the knees of lefthanded hitters. Leave him out there in a pressure situation, and Young melts. He will hang a slider, uncork a wild pitch, make an errant pickoff throw. And — horrors! — the ball might be hit back to him. He's the worst fielding pitcher in the major leagues.

A lefty to be trusted is Tony Fossas, who stranded 27 of 32 inherited runners and held first batters to a .130 average last season. His 86-mph fastball tails away from righthanded hitters, and lefties bite on his cutter and flat slider delivered from a low three-quarters angle.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

CATCHING Tony Pena, 35 in June, has caught about 10,000 innings in the major leagues, been in and out of his squat who knows how many hundreds of thousands of times. He has absorbed the collisions and taken the pounding every day for 11 seasons. Pena is this generation's Ernie Banks, playing whenever he can, with an exuberant style that lets everyone in the park know how much he enjoys it.

Elbow, shoulder, thumb and rib injuries have effectively robbed Pena's offense. He was down to .231 last season, hacking away as usual with his free-spirited bat, but not catching up to the high fastballs he used to whack into the alleys.

The Red Sox have plenty of hitters. Pena's job is defense, and the main part of it is handling the pitching staff, which he does with elan, not to mention his nose in the dirt. Pena has soft hands, still is quick behind the plate and compensates for diminishing arm strength with a quick release. He led AL catchers last season in games (140), chances, putouts and double plays, and threw out a respectable 30 percent of the runners who tried to steal. Most important, Roger Clemens can let his forkball fly as hard as he wants, and Greg Harris and Jeff Reardon can throw their sharpest break-



Jack Clark

ing pitch, confident that if they bounce it, Pena will block it.

John Marzano has done a decent job in his limited backup role, but no one knows what might happen if he had to play 45 or 50 games. He has sure hands and an adequate arm, but makes a labored peg to second base. At the plate, Marzano swings long and slow.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

INFIELD Third baseman Wade Boggs, rebounding from two declining years, batted .332 last season despite nagging back and shoulder problems. He has the best bat con-

trol since Rod Carew, and has tailored his swing for Fenway Park. A career .381 hitter in home games, Boggs batted .389 with six homers at the Fens last year, compared with .282 and two homers on the road. He probably could hit more out, but prefers to play pepper off the Green Monster. Boggs turns 34 in June and is in the final year of his contract, so he will have plenty of incentive to win his sixth batting title, not that he's ever had trouble motivating himself.

The best third baseman in the majors who does not own a Gold Glove, Boggs made only two errors after July 21 last season. He has a

quick first step, sure hands and an accurate arm. Boggs gets to the foul line quickly, then spins and throws to complete the play as well as anyone.

Second baseman Jody Reed is a little man with a big man's bat speed, which translates into 40 doubles a year. Always looking for fastballs to pull, he's miscast as a No. 2 hitter. But then, with Boggs leading off instead of batting third, the top of the order is ill-conceived. Reed is a superb second baseman, fearless on the double-play pivot, sure-handed, and gets a quick jump in either direction.

Unless the Red Sox make a trade, Carlos Quintana and Mo Vaughn will share first base, with Quintana also figuring in right field. The Q is a line-drive hitter and started to jerk some balls last season. He murders lefthanded pitching (.340 in '91) and is tough in the clutch. In one-run and tie games from the seventh inning on, Quintana's .394 average last season was the best in the major leagues. He has no range at first base and his hands are a bit stiff, but Quintana handles throws well.

Vaughn blasted two tape-measure homers shortly after his arrival from Pawtucket last June, but pitchers quickly discovered they could control him with fastballs up and in. Vaughn had only one homer in his final 66 games. He is a good low-ball hitter, attempts to hit the ball where it's pitched, and has massive power to all fields. On pitches low and away, he can pound holes into the Green Monster. Though he looks like George Scott, Vaughn is not the twinkle-toed Boomer at first base, but is agile for a big man.

Like Quintana, shortstop Luis Rivera is highly respected by teammates for being a gamer. He led AL shortstops in errors in '91, but played much of the year with shoulder and knee injuries that required postseason surgery. Except for occasionally allowing the ball to play him, Rivera is dependable. He has soft hands and enough range and arm to get by on grass fields. At the plate, he likes high fastballs and has just enough power to get himself into trouble.

If Tim Lincecum, who might have 15- to 20-homer potential, is recovered from back surgery, he likely will end up the everyday shortstop. Naehring has a quick, aggressive right-side stroke, but won't supplant Rivera

if he doesn't hit. Naehring lacks range and quickness at short, but throws well.

Scott Cooper, who is out of options, will make the club if he's not traded for pitching help. The Red Sox are reluctant to give up Cooper, who has some power from the left side and is a fine third baseman. They may need him in 1993 if the bidding on Boggs goes too high.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

OUTFIELD The outfield was a mess last season. Ellis Burks had a bad back, two bad knees and other frustrations. Mike Greenwell batted .300, but had a career-low 41 extra-base hits. Tom Brunansky, slipping fast, slumped to .229. About the only bright light was Phil Plantier, who batted .344 with 11 homers and 32 RBIs in 42 games after being promoted from Pawtucket in August.

The Red Sox tried hard to trade Greenwell during the offseason, because Plantier is best suited for left field. Without a deal, the outfield figures to be Burks in the middle, flanked by Greenwell in left and either Plantier or Carlos Quintana in right.

Burks probably never is going to use his speed for stolen bases, but if he's healthy, there's no reason he can't hit .300 with 25 homers and 100 RBIs. He swings an ultra-quick bat, is a superb high-fastball hitter and will go with the pitch. Burks, though, tends to get himself out on breaking stuff. A graceful centerfielder, he gets good jumps and retreats well. Shoulder problems have diminished his arm strength, but he remains a respected thrower. Burks' quiet, relaxed personality sometimes frustrates Bostonians, who long have favored players with the dirtiest uniforms.

Greenwell has a live bat, generating line-drive power to all fields and pulling fastballs for homers. He will chase high pitches, but not enough to keep him from being a lifetime .311 hitter, including .296 against lefthanders. Greenwell hustles enough to steal 15 bases a year. His problems are his mouth, which gets him in dutch with teammates and management, and his defense. Greenwell is a liability in any left field except Fenway's, where he can set up deep. He gets poor jumps, can't go back for the ball and has a below-average arm.

Plantier's swing is reminiscent of Fred Lynn's. He can be exploited upstairs, but it

has to be a plus fastball. Though he still chases breaking pitches, his strikeouts diminished from 154 in 1990 to 102 last season. Slow afoot and short of arm, Plantier is a below-average outfielder, but has improved since learning to run on the balls of his feet rather than his heels.

Brunansky's long swing leaves him increasingly vulnerable to hard stuff inside, and he's regressed in the field. Rookies Wayne Housie and Bob Zupcic are backup candidates.

DESIGNATED HITTER Jack Clark took awhile to get going last season and suffered his usual nagging injuries. But he eventually rounded into his usual middle-of-the-order presence and had a fine second half (.282, 17 homers, 51 RBIs). Clark rips at every pitch. He has massive power from right-center to the left-field pole. He barely touches righthanded pitching (.225 last year), kills lefties (.325), intimidates everyone, and goes on power streaks that can carry a team for a week. Not afraid to confront anyone or speak his mind on any issue, Clark is highly respected in the clubhouse.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

MANAGEMENT Butch Hobson was a hard-nosed player and has been the same type of manager in the minor leagues. This is a club waiting for a manager to come early and work hard, and Hobson won't be a disappointment on those counts. He commands respect, is tough and plays no favorites. If Hobson has to get in someone's face, he won't hesitate, whether it's Tony Fossas or Roger Clemens. Hiring Don Zimmer to help ease Hobson into the job was a master stroke.

Lou Gorman isn't the best general manager, but frequently is hamstrung by warring factions in the ownership group. Gorman isn't afraid to wade into the free-agent market, though his boldness comes from knowing that he's working for one of the wealthiest franchises and can afford to be burned by an occasional Matt Young.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

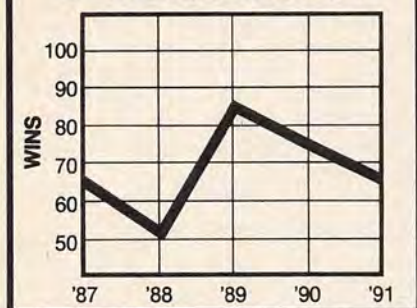
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PITCHERS														CATCHERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Bolton, Tom	L-L	6-3	185	29	Boston	8-9	5.24	25	0	110	136	51	64	.308	Marzano, John	R-R	5-11	195	29	Boston	.263	.271	114	10	30	8	0	0	9	0
Clemens, Roger	R-R	6-4	220	29	Boston	18-10	2.62	35	0	271	219	65	241	.221	Pena, Tony	R-R	6-0	185	34	Boston	.231	.291	464	45	107	23	2	5	48	8
Darwin, Danny	R-R	6-3	195	36	Boston	3-6	5.16	12	0	68	71	15	42	.263	Wedge, Eric	R-R	6-3	215	24	A-AA-AAA	.234	.344	192	26	45	14	1	6	28	1
Dopson, John	R-R	6-4	235	28	A	2-2	3.38	6	0	27	26	8	26	.245	Boston	1,000	1,000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
				Boston	0-0	18.00	1	0	1	2	1	0	.500																	
Fischer, Tom	L-L	5-11	195	25	AA-AAA	8-13	5.12	24	0	145	149	65	93	.269																
Fossas, Tony	L-L	6-0	187	34	Boston	3-2	3.47	64	1	57	49	28	29	.236																
Gardner, Mike	S-R	6-0	200	26	AAA	7-1	2.34	8	0	58	39	11	42	.192																
				Boston	9-10	4.85	22	0	130	140	47	91	274																	
Gray, Jeff	R-R	6-1	190	28	Boston	2-3	2.34	50	1	62	39	10	41	.181																
Harris, Greg	S-R	6-0	175	36	Boston	11-12	3.85	53	2	173	157	69	127	.243																
Hesketh, Joe	L-L	6-2	170	33	Boston	12-4	3.29	39	0	153	142	53	104	.250																
Hoy, Peter	L-R	6-7	220	25	AA-AAA	5-6	1.70	62	20	91	65	32	51	.216																
Irvine, Daryl	R-R	6-3	195	27	AAA	1-1	3.00	27	17	33	27	13	19	.288																
				Boston	0-0	6.00	9	0	18	25	9	8	.321																	
Kiecker, Dana	R-R	6-3	195	31	AAA	2-3	3.79	8	0	38	42	19	23	.280																
				Boston	2-3	7.36	18	0	40	56	23	21	344																	
Livornois, Derek	L-R	6-1	185	24	AA-AAA	4-4	6.30	10	0	47	55	27	45	.297																
Morton, Kevin	R-L	6-2	185	23	AAA	7-3	3.49	16	0	98	91	30	80	.242																
				Boston	6-5	4.59	16	0	86	93	40	45	.284																	
Plympton, Jeff	R-R	6-2	205	26	AAA	2-6	3.12	41	7	69	65	29	58	.248																
				Boston	0-0	0.00	4	0	5	5	4	2	.263																	
Quattrilli, Paul	L-R	6-1	175	23	AA-AAA	12-8	4.25	30	0	181	169	38	93	.276																
Reardon, Jeff	R-R	6-0	205	36	Boston	1-4	3.03	57	40	59	54	16	44	.236																
Viola, Frank	L-L	6-4	209	31	New York (NL)	13-15	3.97	35	0	231	259	54	132	.286																
Young, Matt	L-L	6-3	210	33	Boston	3-7	5.18	19	0	89	92	53	69	.266																
Coaches — Gary Allenson; Al Bumby; Rick Burleson; Rich Gale; Don Zimmer																														
INFELDERS														OUTFIELDERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Boggs, Wade	L-R	6-2	197	33	Boston	.332	.421	546	93	181	42	2	8	51	1															
Bumley, Mike	S-R	5-10	175	28	AAA	.269	.406	108	25	29	2	2	4	16	8															
				Boston	.212	.273	118	16	25	5	0	0	5	2																
Clark, Jack	R-R	6-3	210	36	Boston	.249	.374	481	75	120	18	1	28	87	0															
Cooper, Scott	L-R	6-3	205	24	AAA	.277	.350	483	55	134	21	2	15	72	3															
				Boston	.457	.486	35	6	16	4	2	0	7	0																
Naehring, Tim	R-R	6-2	190	25	Boston	.109	.197	55	1	6	1	0	0	3	0															
Quintana, Carlos	R-R	6-2	220	26	Boston	.295	.375	478	69	141	21	1	11	71	1															
Reed, Jody	R-R	5-9	165	29	Boston	.283	.349	618	87	175	42	2	5	60	6															
Rivera, Luis	R-R	5-9	175	28	Boston	.258	.318	414	64	107	22	3	8	40	4															
Valentin, John	R-R	6-0	170	25	AA-AAA	.251	.356	410	60	103	25	4	9	54	1															
Vaughn, Mo	L-R	6-1	230	24	AAA	.274	.422	234	35	64	10	0	14	50	2															
				Boston	.260	.339	219	21	57	12	0	4	32	2																
OUTFIELDERS														INFELDERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Brunansky, Tom	R-R	6-4	220	31	Boston	.229	.303	459	54	105	24	1	16	70	1															
Burks, Ellis	R-R	6-2	205	27	Boston	.251	.314	474	56	119	33	3	14	56	6															
Greenwell, Mike	L-R	6-0	205	28	Boston	.300	.350	544	76	163	26	6	9	83	15															
Housie, Wayne	S-R	5-9	165	26	AA-AAA	.285	.364	523	72	149	33	2	8	34	45															
				Boston	.250	.333	8	2	2	1	0	0	0	1																
McNeely, Jeff	R-R	6-2	190	21	AA	.322	.436	382	58	123	16	5	4	38	38															
Plantier, Phil	L-R	5-11	195	23	AAA	.305	.438	298	69	91	19	4	16	61	6															
				Boston	.331	.420	148	27	49	7	1	11	35	1																
				AAA	.240	.323	429	70	103	27	1	18	70	10																
Zuppic, Bob	R-R	6-4	225	25	AAA	.160	.192	25	3	4	0	0	1	3	0															
				Boston																										

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

1991 RECORD: 67-95 MANAGER: JOHN OATES STADIUM: CAMDEN YARDS (47,000)

5-YEAR SCAN



No matter how their beloved O's fare, Baltimore Orioles fans will be plenty excited this season. Memorial Stadium, the club's home since 1954, is being replaced by Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The only unpleasant thing about the place is the awkward name it received because of ownership's insistence that the team name be in the stadium's title.

Camden Yards is a traditionalist's delight: real grass, no dome, asymmetrical dimensions. It is 335 feet to the left-field fence, 396 to center, 321 to right. That's correct, 321 to right, which features a 25-foot high, 100-foot long wall. The Orioles did not flee to the suburbs. The 47,000-seat facility is in the city, with a restored brick warehouse looming beyond right field.

The new stadium undoubtedly will be more attractive than its team this season. These are not the Orioles who finished first or second 13 times in 15 years beginning with the start of divisional play in 1969. Those glory years included seven American League East titles, five pennants and two World Series championships.

The Orioles have struggled mightily since 1984, compiling a 592-701 record and finishing last or next to last four times. Baltimore lost 95 games last season, largely because the Orioles were a club-record 18-35 in one-run games.

The Orioles have made fewer than 100 errors in each of the past three seasons, an achievement unrivaled in major league history. OK, the defense is sound. But last year's club ERA (4.59) was the highest in the majors, and the offense ranked 10th in the AL in runs (686) and 12th in batting average (.254).

The shame of it is that for all his majestic play, Cal Ripken has been in postseason competition less than people like Elrod Hendricks and Kiko Garcia.

PITCHING Orioles starters last season were 42-69 and had the highest ERA (5.29) in the majors. The rotation was so inept

that 43 times the Orioles trailed by at least three runs before the fourth inning. Baltimore was outscored 134-67 in the first inning, 236-138 in the first two. Jeff Ballard, Jeff Robinson and Dave Johnson, three-fifths of the initial rotation, have been banished from the organization.

It's no surprise that the 1991 bullpen worked a major league-high 558 innings. Mike Flanagan, Todd Frohworth and Jim Poole, all released by other clubs, did fine jobs getting what little there was to salvage to closer Gregg Olson. Considering their overload, the relievers had a superb 3.45 ERA.

STARTING PITCHING If nothing else, the Orioles might have found an ace last season. Righthander Mike Mussina, after being promoted from Triple-A on July 30, had the lowest ERA (2.87) among 29 major league rookies who made at least 10 starts. He got better as he went along, fashioning a 1.66 ERA after Sept. 1.

Scouts compare Mussina to a young Jim Palmer. He has a quality repertoire and knows how to use it. He throws 92 mph, has a terrific knuckle-curve that he taught himself, and mixes in a good change-up. Most important, he throws strikes. After getting his major league debut behind him, he averaged 1.9 walks per nine innings the rest of the way. That type of command helped Mussina work into the seventh inning in 10 of 12 starts.

Mussina, 23, is quick to pick up a hitter's weakness and exploit it. This is an intelligent pitcher; he earned a degree in economics from Stanford in 3½ years. And to think Palmer figured he was the only one who knew it all.

The only other starter to do the Orioles much good last season was righthander Bob Milacki, who spent the first month in Double-A. He led the club in victories (10), innings (184) and starts (26). There is nothing dazzling about Milacki's stuff. He relies on a sinker, quick slider and change-up. His curve, once little more than a waste pitch, has developed a good break and he trusts it when behind in the count.

After settling in last year, Milacki went from June 22 to Sept. 9 with an 8-6 record and 3.37 ERA, working into the seventh inning in 15 of 17 starts. He will not miss Memorial Stadium, where his 5.16 ERA was the worst home mark among AL pitchers who worked at least 162 innings.

Big Ben McDonald no longer is the can't-miss ace the Orioles thought they were getting with the first pick in the 1989 draft. The 6-7 righthander was disabled twice last season because of a strained elbow and didn't pitch after Sept. 8 because of a stiff shoulder. McDonald did not win consecutive starts, and righthanders pounded him at a .313 clip, 98 points higher than lefties.

McDonald persists in working high in the strike zone, even though his 93- to 95-mph fastball has virtually no action on it above belt-level. He can freeze hitters with his overhand curve, but doesn't get it over the plate consistently. While he shows a smooth delivery at times, he is quick to fall out of sync. Some think McDonald, 24, still is a happy-go-lucky kid, unaware that his job requires year-round dedication and conditioning. A reporter once called the McDonald home in Louisiana during the offseason and spoke with his mother, who said, "He's not here right now. He's outside playing with his friends."

In their offseason search for starters, the best the Orioles could land were righthanders Rick Sutcliffe and — yech! — Storm Davis. Sutcliffe, 35, is a gamer, but no longer throws hard enough to break eggs. On a two-year comeback from shoulder surgery, he has to rely on an assortment of junk delivered from different angles. While his arm might be drained, Sutcliffe remains a consummate professional and could prove to be a mentor for the young starters.

Davis, on the other hand, is a bad habit that no club should want around impressionable young pitchers. Regarded as a future Cy Young candidate when he came up with the Orioles in the early 1980s, he has nibbled himself into journeyman's status. Davis is only 30 and still has four good pitches, but there's no reason to believe he won't continue to peck away at the plate and flash dirty looks toward the dugout if it's the sixth inning and the manager doesn't have anyone warming up in the bullpen.

Righthander Jose Mesa throws almost as hard as McDonald and has superb life on his fastball, whether it's up or down. He also has a running slider, but lacks a consistent off-speed pitch and is quick to fall out of sync with his delivery. The Orioles want Mesa to concentrate on developing his curve. He had four victories last April, but soon fell into a horrid 15-start slump and was dispatched to Triple-A to regroup.

Arthur Rhodes, one of the top lefthanded prospects in the minors, may be ready by June. Scouts say he's a young Vida Blue with a better curve. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

RELIEF PITCHING Gregg Olson, 25, needs five saves this season to become the youngest 100-save man in history. Yet he wasn't nearly as untouchable last year as he was in his first two full seasons. Olson blew eight opportunities and opponents hit him at a .262 clip, 60 points higher than in the first two years. He didn't issue a walk in his first 10 appearances, but averaged more than four per nine innings in his final 62.

Olson's trademark curve still has a devastat-



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ing break, but he's fallen in love with it. He needs to get ahead with his 93-mph fastball, which has superb life up in the strike zone, then go after hitters with the big yakker. Instead, hitters are laying off his curve early, aware that Olson tends to overthrow and make mistakes the deeper he goes into the count. When he does get racked, Olson's mistakes rarely leave the yard. He has faced 1,040 batters in his career and yielded only six home runs.

Lefty Mike Flanagan, 40, got a new lease on his career as a reliever last season. He ranked fourth in the AL in relief innings (94), stranded 74 percent of his inherited runners, and barely was touched by lefthanded batters (AL-best .181). Flanagan still has an adequate fastball and throws his sweeping, sidearm curve for strikes. His pitches, coming from different angles and well-concealed, are difficult for hitters to pick up. Manager John Oates needs to anticipate situations for Flana-

gan, who is slow to get loose and can't be expected to warm up several times a game.

Righthander Todd Frohworth was such a pleasant surprise last year that he finished second to Cal Ripken in voting for the most valuable player on the team. Dumped by the Phillies, he joined the Orioles seven weeks into the season and ended up working the second-most relief innings (96) in the AL. He had the second-best ERA (1.87) among AL relievers, limited opponents to a .190 average (fourth best) and held first batters to a .109 average (best).

Frohworth, 29, salvaged his career by dropping his arm angle from sidearm to submarine, which has enhanced the sinking action on his fastball. He likes to run his slider away from righthanders, but doesn't have a pitch for lefties. He throws with a lot of motion, making it difficult for hitters to track his pitches.

Lefty Jim Poole, claimed off waivers last May and promoted from Triple-A in July, proved to be a dependable middle reliever.

Throwing from a three-quarters delivery, he has a decent fastball and a sharp, late-breaking slider.

He was tough to hit for righties (.164) and lefties (.150) last season.

Righthander Mark Williamson needs to get back on track. Hurt by too many high fastballs, his ERA ballooned to 4.48 last year, compared with 2.61 for the previous two seasons. When Williamson keeps his fastball down, it has good tailing action, enabling him to go to his best pitch, a palmball that sinks away from lefthanded batters.

GRADE
(max. 10): 6.5

CATCHING

Chris Hoiles, with hard work, has become an adequate catcher. Though his hands are a bit stiff and his feet sometimes become tangled, he made only one error last season and led AL receivers in fielding percentage. A quick release enabled him to throw out 33 percent (24 of 73) of the runners who tested his arm. Hoiles has a quick bat and swings with power, but pitchers usually can get him to chase breaking balls. Ten of his 11 homers last season came with the bases empty.

Hoiles' backup might be 42-year-old Rick Dempsey. Earl Weaver's sparring partner in the Orioles' glory years, Dempsey was signed after Bob Melvin was traded to Kansas City for Storm Davis. Another

possibility is Jeff Tackett, who gunned down 52 percent of the runners who tried to steal against him at Triple-A last year. Tackett, though, can't hit a lick. His .236 average last year at Rochester was 16 points higher than his average for his first seven pro seasons.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

INFIELD

No player means more to his team than Cal Ripken. He has been out there for the Orioles' last 1,573 games, a streak that began May 30, 1982. Ripken is a steady presence, a manager on the field.

Though he hardly has conventional tools for his position, Ripken is one of the most dependable shortstops in the game. He knows hitters' tendencies and positions himself accordingly. Always on the move, he has adequate range into the hole, is quick to reach balls in the middle of the diamond, and virtually never makes a mistake with his strong, accurate arm. Gold Glove voters finally acknowledged Ripken last season. It helped considerably that while all other AL shortstops were averaging an error every 33.6 chances, Ripken was averaging one every 73.4 chances.

After batting a career-low .250 in 1990, Ripken realized he had to make some changes at the plate. By shifting the position of his hands and bending his knees, he was able to reach the low strikes he was finding increasingly difficult to handle in an upright stance. Ripken also opened up some and became more conscious of hitting the ball where it was pitched, especially with two strikes. The result was his second MVP season. Ripken's average rose 73 points, his homers jumped by 13 to a career-high 34, and his RBIs increased by 30 to a career-high 114.

Ripken did all that damage despite having no protection in the lineup. The No. 4 hole was supposed to be filled by Glenn Davis, but he missed 105 games because of a neck injury. Although Camden Yards favors lefty swingers, the righthanded-hitting Davis has the power to leave any park with regularity. He has some trouble reaching low strikes, but isn't as apt to chase breaking pitches as many sluggers. Davis is a stationary first baseman with stiff hands.

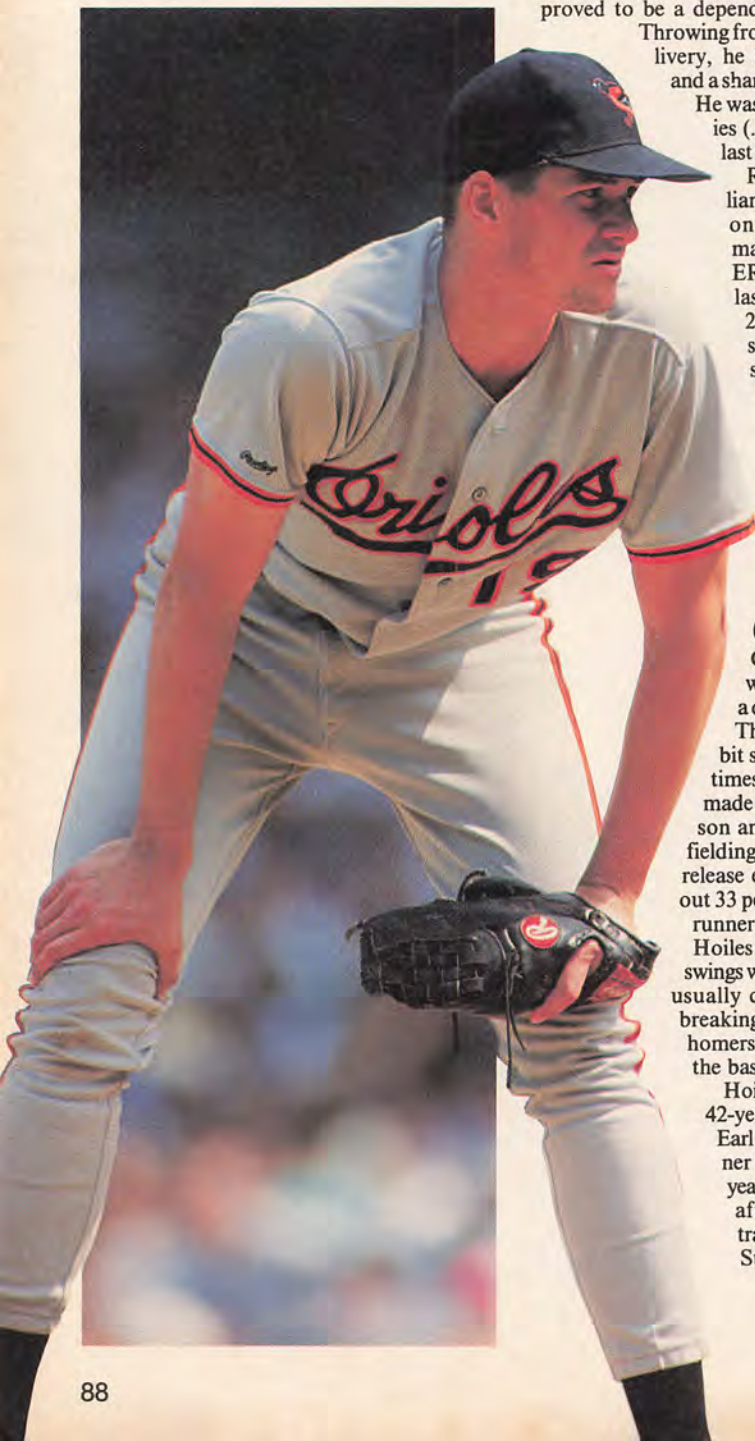
With a lot of help from Cal Ripken Sr., who must have hit him 10,000 ground balls, Leo Gomez became a dependable third baseman in his 1991 rookie season. His hands and quickness improved, and he found his arm was strong enough that he didn't have to rush his throws. Gomez made only one error in his final 82 games. He has a quick bat and natural power lift in his swing, but is fooled too often. As he matures, Gomez could produce 20 to 25 homers and 80 RBIs annually.

Second baseman Billy Ripken took to swinging from his heels again last season, and his batting average plunged to .216, a year after he had hit .291 by going with the pitch. He is in danger of losing his job to Juan Bell, George's little brother. Juan, a true shortstop, has fine range and hands and one of the game's strongest infield arms. It remains to be seen how adept he is at playing the little man's offensive game that Billy Rip resists. Reserve Tim Hulett has some pop in his bat, but doesn't make enough contact. He lacks quickness and range at second and third.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

OUTFIELD

Mike Devereaux really isn't a centerfielder or a leadoff hitter, but fills



Ben McDonald

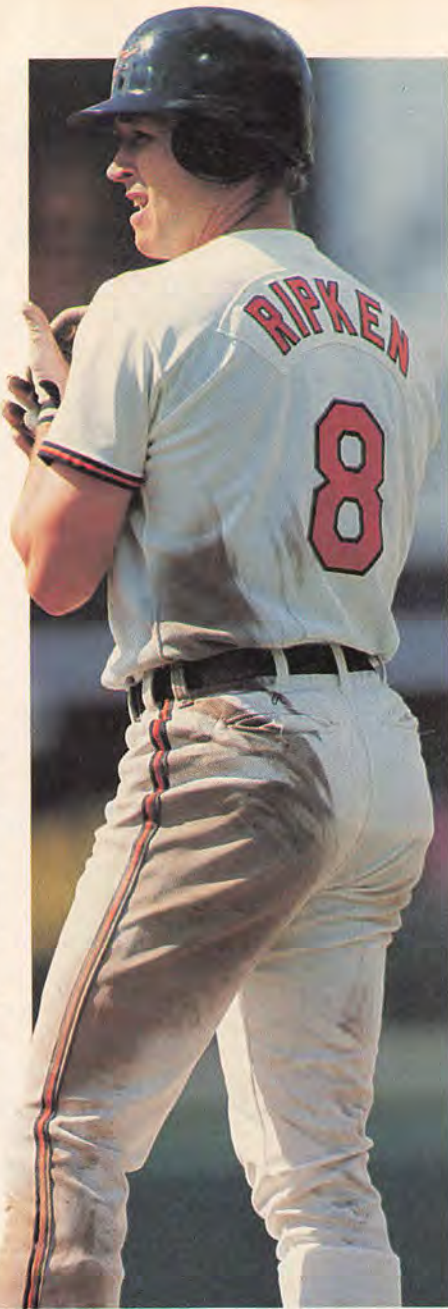
those roles out of necessity. He has the bat speed to handle high fastballs and generate power, but struggles against breaking stuff. While Devereaux is the primary source of speed on a slow-footed team, he lacks the explosive start and running instincts of a true basestealer. Devereaux works hard in center, retreating well and charging quickly. However, he doesn't get crack-of-the-bat jumps and his arm is short.

Leftfielder Joe Orsulak has stiff hands and below-average arm strength, but has made himself into a defensive asset. He has fine instincts, never stops hustling and makes quick throws with uncanny accuracy. Runners keep testing Orsulak's arm, and keep losing. His club-record 22 assists last season were seven more than any other big league outfielder and the most in the majors in six years. Offensively, Orsulak is tough to defend because he goes with the pitch and makes contact. He likes to hook fastballs for power, and will have a short right-field porch to aim for at Camden Yards. All 33 of his career homers have been off righthanders.

Chito Martinez clouted 13 homers after being promoted from Triple-A last July. He has a long swing, but can catch up to low pitches, and the ball jumps off his bat. Pitchers try to work him up and in with fastballs. Martinez has plenty of arm, but is a cumbersome rightfielder. He gets bad breaks and doesn't run well.

Dwight Evans, 40, is winding down what might be a Hall of Fame career. Though he's lost considerable bat speed, Evans has the patience to wait for something he can hit sharply and maintains an edge by keeping an extensive book on pitchers' tendencies. He was the Orioles' best hitter last season with runners in scoring position (.354). He no longer has a rifle arm from right field, but still plays the position soundly.

Reserve candidates include David Segui, whose best position is first base, and Brady Anderson. Hot-tempered rookie Luis Mercedes has two batting titles and a runner-up finish on his resume for the past three years. He is a legitimate leadoff hitter with speed, but plays poorly in the outfield and has



Cal Ripken

trouble fitting into a team concept because of his volatile personality.

DESIGNATED HITTER Baltimore DHs led the AL in homers (34) and were second in RBIs (105) last season. Big Sam Horn takes his hacks against righthanded pitching. An all-or-nothing swinger, he crushes low fastballs, but has trouble laying off high pitches. Randy Milligan, unless he's traded or first baseman Glenn Davis' neck problems recur, will get most of his at-bats as the DH against lefties. Milligan doesn't have Horn's raw power, but is a more disciplined hitter and has hit 36 homers the past two years.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

MANAGEMENT The Orioles didn't do much better after John Oates replaced Frank Robinson as manager last May. Still, the front office was taken by Oates' enthusiasm and patience, and rewarded him with a two-year contract the day after the season ended. A former major league catcher, Oates has expertise handling a pitching staff, an area that long was Robinson's Achilles' heel as a manager.

General manager Roland Hemond's trading record leaves much to be desired. He virtually gave away Eddie Murray in December 1988, then sought to replace Murray by trading for Glenn Davis in January 1991. While Davis was sitting out most of last season because of a career-threatening neck injury, Pete Harnisch and Steve Finley, two of the players sent to Houston, were developing into fine major leaguers.

To be fair, Hemond operates under the constraints of cheap ownership. And he has hired quality people to reconstruct the Orioles' player development program, which had gone to pot under the regime of his predecessor, Hank Peters. Since Hemond became GM, the Orioles have snagged their top starters (Ben McDonald, Mike Mussina) and closer (Gregg Olson) with first-round draft picks.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

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PITCHERS														INFELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Davis, Storm	R-R	6-4	200	30	Kansas City	3-9	4.96	51	2	114	140	46	53	.306	Alexander, Manny	R-R	5-10	150	21	AA-A	.264	.321	557	84	147	18	3	3	44	47	
De la Rosa, Francisco	S-R	5-11	195	26	AAA	4-1	2.67	38	3	84	71	33	61	.232	Bell, Juan	S-R	5-11	176	24	Baltimore	.172	.201	209	26	36	9	2	1	15	0	
					Baltimore	0-0	4.50	2	0	4	6	2	1	.353	Davis, Glenn	R-R	6-3	211	31	Baltimore	.227	.307	176	29	40	9	1	10	28	4	
Flanagan, Mike	L-L	6-0	199	40	Baltimore	2-7	2.38	64	1	98	84	25	55	.236	Gomez, Leo	R-R	6-0	202	25	AAA	.257	.370	101	13	26	6	0	6	19	0	
Frothing, Todd	R-R	6-4	205	29	AAA	1-1	3.65	20	0	25	11	5	15	.198					Baltimore	.233	.302	391	40	91	17	2	16	45	1		
					Baltimore	7-3	1.87	51	3	96	64	29	77	.190	Gutierrez, Ricky	R-R	6-1	175	21	AAA-AA	.260	.374	449	70	117	11	7	0	45	15	
Hetzler, Eric	R-R	6-3	180	28	AAA	9-5	3.57	19	0	116	110	58	83	.246	Horn, Sam	L-L	6-5	247	28	Baltimore	.233	.326	310	45	74	16	0	23	61	0	
McDonald, Ben	R-R	6-7	214	24	AAA	0-1	3.71	2	0	7	10	5	7	.323	Hulett, Tim	R-R	6-0	199	32	Baltimore	.204	.255	206	29	42	9	0	7	18	0	
					Baltimore	6-8	4.84	21	0	126	126	43	85	.261	Milligan, Randy	R-R	6-1	234	30	Baltimore	.263	.373	483	57	127	17	2	16	70	0	
Mesa, Jose	R-R	6-3	222	25	AAA	3-3	3.86	8	0	51	37	30	48	.203	Ripken, Bill	R-R	6-1	186	27	A-AA	.444	.444	9	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	
					Baltimore	6-11	5.97	23	0	124	151	62	64	.307					Baltimore	.216	.253	287	24	62	11	1	0	14	0		
Milacki, Bob	R-R	6-4	232	27	AA	1-0	1.06	3	0	17	14	3	18	.219	Ripken, Cal	R-R	6-4	224	31	Baltimore	.323	.374	650	99	210	46	5	34	114	6	
					Baltimore	10-9	4.01	31	0	184	175	53	108	.253	Segui, David	S-L	6-1	200	25	Rochester	.271	.365	96	9	26	2	0	1	10	1	
Mussina, Mike	R-R	6-2	187	23	AAA	10-4	2.87	19	0	122	108	31	187	.235					Baltimore	.278	.316	212	15	59	7	0	2	22	1		
					Baltimore	4-5	2.87	12	0	88	77	21	52	.239	Worthington, Craig	R-R	6-0	200	26	AAA	.298	.375	57	10	17	4	0	2	9	0	
Olson, Gregg	R-R	6-4	206	25	Baltimore	4-6	3.18	72	31	74	74	29	72	.262					Baltimore	.225	.313	102	11	23	3	0	4	12	0		
Poole, Jim	L-L	6-2	203	25	AAA	3-2	2.79	23	9	29	29	9	25	.257	OUTFIELDERS																
					Baltimore	3-2	2.00	24	0	36	19	9	34	.157	Anderson, Brady	L-L	6-1	185	28	AAA	.385	.515	26	5	10	3	0	0	2	4	
					Texas	0-0	4.50	5	1	6	10	3	4	.370					Baltimore	.230	.338	256	40	59	12	3	2	27	12		
Rhodes, Arthur	L-L	6-2	204	22	AA	7-4	2.70	19	0	105	73	40	115	.194	Devereaux, Mike	R-R	6-0	195	28	Baltimore	.260	.313	608	82	158	27	10	19	59	16	
					Baltimore	0-3	8.00	8	0	36	47	23	23	.320	Evans, Dwight	R-R	6-3	208	40	Baltimore	.270	.393	270	35	73	9	1	6	38	2	
Sutcliffe, Rick	L-R	6-7	215	35	Chicago (NL)	6-5	4.10	19	0	97	96	45	52	.264	Martinez, Chito	L-L	5-10	182	26	AAA	.322	.393	211	42	68	8	1	20	50	2	
Telford, Anthony	R-R	6-0	189	25	AAA	12-9	3.95	27	0	157	166	48	115	.274					Baltimore	.269	.303	216	32	58	12	1	13	33	1		
					Baltimore	0-0	4.05	9	0	27	23	6	24	.265	Mercedes, Luis	R-R	6-0	193	24	AAA	.334	.435	374	68	125	14	5	2	36	23	
Williamson, Mark	R-R	6-0	177	32	Baltimore	5-5	4.48	65	4	80	87	35	53	.275					Baltimore	.204	.259	54	10	11	2	0	0	2	0		
CATCHERS																															
Dempsey, Rick	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Orsulak, Joe	L-L	6-1	210	29	Baltimore	.278	.321	468	57	135	22	1	5	43	6
	R-R	6-0	184	42	Milwaukee	.231	.329	147	15	34	5	0	4	21	0																
Holles, Chris	R-R	6-0	206	27	Baltimore	.243	.304	341	36	83	15	0	11	31	0																
Tackett, Jeff	R-R	6-2	206	26	AAA	.236	.321	431	64	102	18	2	6	50	3	Coaches — Elrod Hendricks; Dick Bosman; Cal Ripken Sr.; Greg Biagini; Davey Lopes															
	R-R	6-2	206	26	Baltimore	.125	.300	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0																

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DETROIT TIGERS

1991 RECORD: 84-78 MANAGER: SPARKY ANDERSON STADIUM: TIGER (52,416)



Detroit manager Sparky Anderson does a pretty good Rodney Dangerfield. Every year Sparky complains about lack of respect for his team after reading preseason predictions that doom the Tigers. It was the same last year, when Sparky did what he loves to do: prove everybody wrong.

Detroit did not win the American League East, but the lightly regarded Tigers were contenders, sharing first place with eventual division champion Toronto as late as the final week of August. Detroit finished 84-78, good for a second-place tie with Boston.

Some will dismiss the Tigers' chances again this year, and Sparky will go into his Dangerfield routine and shake his head in disbelief. Don't the soothsayers know the Tigers have finished third or better eight times in the past nine years? Don't they know that no other AL team has been as consistently successful as the Tigers? Don't they know Detroit had winning records in 12 of the past 14 years?

Cecil Fielder and Co. demand respect in a bolder fashion than their loquacious manager. Last season, the Tigers led the major leagues in home runs (209), matching the second-highest total in club history, and ranked second in runs (817).

Detroit's power can be awesome. Fielder, who can do an impressive Dangerfield himself, last season launched the first home run to soar beyond the outfield bleachers at Milwaukee's County Stadium. Mickey Tettleton became the first catcher to clear the Tiger Stadium roof. He did it twice.

The downside to the power is empty at-bats. Lots of them. The Tigers struck out 1,185 times last season, second-highest total in history, behind only the 1968 New York Mets. The on-field wave performed by the Tigers led to an AL-low .247 batting average.

PITCHING Detroit's pitching leaves much to be desired. The 1991 Tigers finished 12th among AL clubs in ERA (4.51) and actually were encouraged by that. They had

finished last each of the previous two seasons. What Detroit does have is a trio of tough, durable starters in Bill Gullickson, Frank Tanana and Walt Terrell. They don't overpower anyone — the staff's 739 strikeouts were the fewest in the majors — but have the savvy to keep themselves and their team in games. Gullickson, Tanana and Terrell each provided more than 200 innings. Only Minnesota, California and Oakland had three starters do the same in the AL. No team needs dependable starters more than Detroit, which has many holes to fill in its bullpen.

STARTING PITCHING No one gave it much thought when Detroit signed righthander Bill Gullickson as a free agent in December 1990. Gullickson had gone 10-14 with Houston in '90 and spent the previous two seasons in Japan. He was thirtysomething, his best days seemingly long behind him.

Not even the Tigers could have suspected that Gullickson would become their first 20-game winner since Jack Morris in 1986. Gullickson's 20-9 record tied him with Minnesota's Scott Erickson for the AL lead in victories. If there were a *Most Valuable Pitcher* award, Gullickson might have received it. He accounted for 24 percent of Detroit's 84 victories, a greater percentage than any other major league pitcher.

Gullickson never had won more than 17 games, that total coming in 1983 with Montreal. Can he possibly remain the big winner Detroit needs him to be? Gullickson, 33, can if he follows the same formula that worked so well last season. That means throwing strike after strike after strike. Gullickson walked only 44, 13 intentionally, in a team-high 226 innings. His efficiency enabled him to complete six innings in 25 of 35 starts, and he posted a 19-4 mark when he went at least six. Gullickson's mid-80s fastball gets on top of hitters quickly and is helped by his funky, over-the-top delivery. He has a short, quick slider and changes speeds well. Plus, he isn't averse to working inside.

Frank Tanana is another formidable veteran, even at 38. Many thought he was through when he compiled a career-worst 5.31 ERA in 1990. But he rebounded last season, going 13-12 with a 3.77 ERA and giving the Tigers 33 starts and 217 innings. Only four AL lefthanders worked more innings and just five won more games. The 200-inning barrier is relatively easy for Tanana to clear. He's done it four of the past five years and 12 times in his career. The key to Tanana's success is his ability to control the inside of the plate despite stuff that is decidedly short. He has great control of his 77-mph fastball, and a big, slow curve that makes his fastball look better. Once Tanana establishes himself inside, he picks up relatively easy outs with slow stuff away. The

word "crafty," cliché as it might be, must be applied.

One opponent discussed Walt Terrell by saying, "There's nothing pretty about the way he looks or the way he pitches." It's a perfect description. There is nothing special about Terrell — except his determination and guile. He lives down in the strike zone with a pedestrian sinker/slider combination, and gets killed when his pitches are up. The 33-year-old righthander gave the Tigers 219 innings last season, the seventh time in the past eight years he surpassed 200. His eight complete games doubled the total of Gullickson, who was second on the club in that category. Terrell takes full advantage of the long infield grass at Tiger Stadium, where he's 48-21 lifetime.

After the grizzled top three, the dependability factor diminishes quickly. Lefthander Scott Aldred positioned himself for a spot in the rotation with an excellent final month, posting a 2-2 record and 2.50 ERA after being promoted from Triple-A Toledo. But it should not be forgotten that Aldred, 23, failed to complete five innings in five of six starts with Detroit earlier in the season. A hard thrower, he must gain consistency with his location and circle change-up to stick.

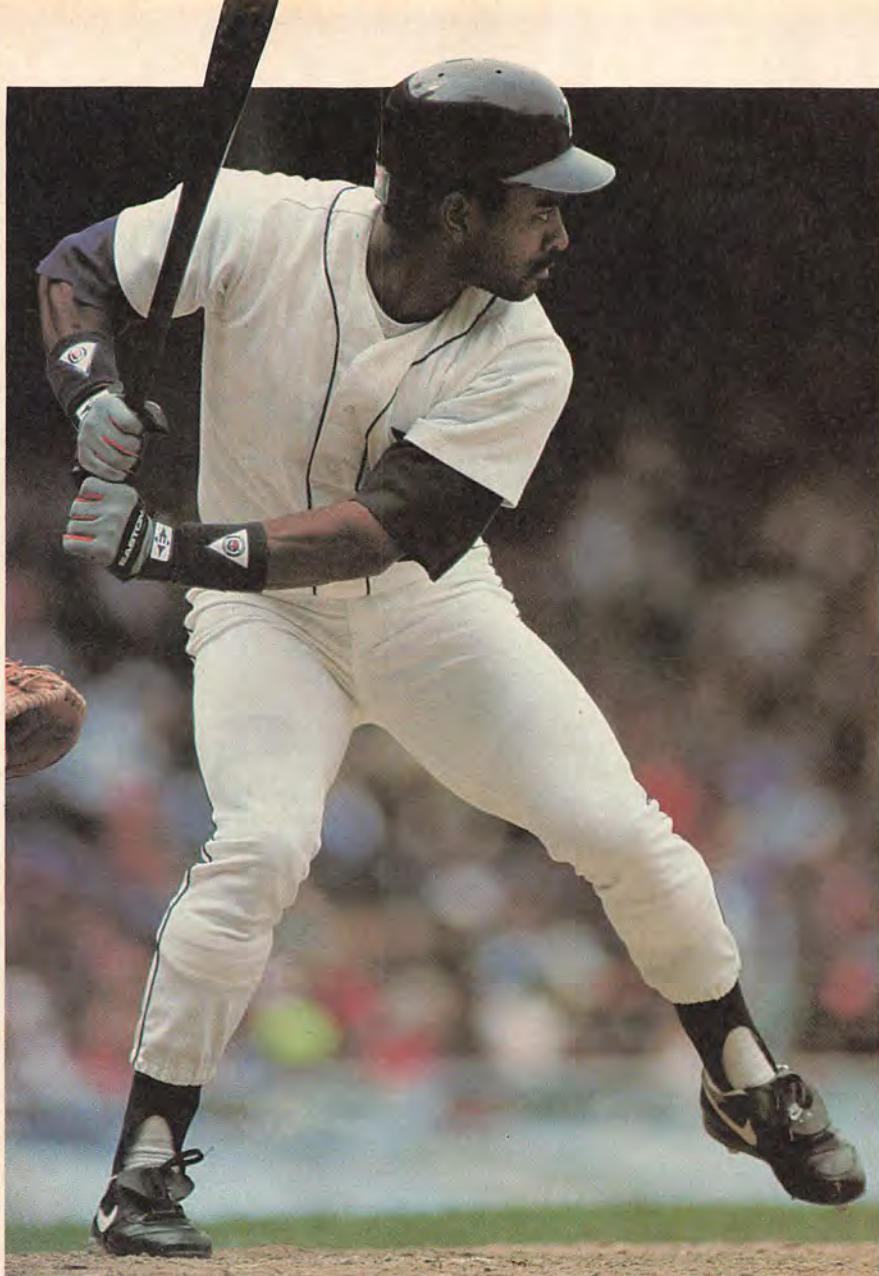
Righthander Mark Leiter can start or relieve. Stolen from the Yankees last March for Torey Lovullo, he gave Detroit's rotation a boost from mid-July on. He was 7-6 as a starter, including a sizzling August (5-0, 2.93 ERA). Leiter has a good fastball that runs if it's down, and a big, flat slider. He doesn't change speeds well and has a history of arm trouble.

Righthander Greg Gohr could earn a starting spot if he has a strong spring. Detroit's first-round draft choice in 1989, he has a live arm and was sent to Venezuela for the past winter season with orders to throw at least one change-up to every batter he faced.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

RELIEF PITCHING The Tigers' fall from contention last summer coincided with closer Mike Henneman's term on the DL while recovering from shoulder tendinitis.

Henneman is a workhorse. He's made 60 or more appearances in each of his four full major league seasons. He already ranks fourth in club history in saves (80) and is the second Tiger to post at least 20 saves three times. Henneman converted 21 of 24 opportunities last year. The 30-year-old righthander is not a closer, as other teams define it. He frequently is used for more than one inning, and his record reflects that of a middle reliever. He went 10-2 last year, tying middle men Mike Timlin of Toronto and Joe Klink of Oakland for relief victories. Henneman wants the ball and goes after hitters aggressively.



Tony Phillips

His sinker/forkball combination makes him particularly tough when aided by Tiger Stadium's slow infield. At home, he is 34-6 lifetime.

After Henneman, the bullpen is a mess. Left-handers Paul Gibson and Jerry Don Gleaton, who combined for 233 appearances and 351 innings the past two seasons, are gone. The remaining relief candidates have a total of five major league saves.

Lefty Tony Castillo, obtained from the Mets in a trade for Gibson, freezes lefthanded batters with a big curve, limiting them to a .176 average last season. Righties, though, pounded him at a .340 clip. Castillo is with his fourth organization since August 1989.

Like Castillo, Jeff Kaiser and Mike Munoz had the good fortune to be born lefthanded. Kaiser has endeared himself to Sparky Anderson because he throws strikes. Munoz has better stuff than Kaiser, but has been flunking big league trials since 1989. His slider is an out pitch, but he doesn't throw enough strikes.

Hard-throwing Dan Gakeler is a possibility from the right side. He stranded 76 percent of his inherited runners last year, but walked 39 in 74 innings and uncorked seven wild pitches. Righthander Steve Cummings jumped into

the picture merely by throwing a no-hitter in Mexico the past winter.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

CATCHING Detroit made an astute acquisition when it obtained Mickey Tettleton from Baltimore for pitcher Jeff Robinson in January 1991. Tettleton responded with career highs in home runs (31), RBIs (89), runs (85), hits (132) and games (154).

The switch-hitting Tettleton has a long swing, but generates good bat speed and power from both sides. Last season he launched 22 home runs from the left side (one every 17.8 at-bats) and nine righthanded (one every 12.1 at-bats). Like most switch-hitters, Tettleton prefers the ball down lefthanded and up righthanded. Opposing pitchers try to stay away from him, hoping to finish him off with a breaking ball in the dirt. Tettleton will strike out (131 in 501 at-bats) but is almost as likely to accept a walk (101).

Tettleton is no threat to Tony Pena's Gold Glove. But he sets up well, throws decently and does a fine job calling a game. He won't back away from a collision if it means saving a run.

Detroit probably will break in rookie Rich

Rowland as Tettleton's backup. A lumberjack before deciding to pursue a baseball career, Rowland can catch and throw capably, and has some sting in his bat.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

INFIELD Cecil Fielder is the primary source of power in the Tigers' explosive attack. He is the primary source of power in baseball, period. Bashing 51 and 44 home runs the past two years, Fielder became the first major leaguer to hit at least 40 in consecutive seasons since Mike Schmidt in 1979-80. Knocking home 132 and 133 runs, Fielder is the first AL player to top the majors in RBIs in consecutive seasons since Jimmie Foxx in 1932-33. Fielder's 95 home runs are the most in a two-year period since Willie Mays slugged 99 in 1964-65. Over the past two seasons, he has averaged a home run every 12.6 at-bats.

Fielder has some holes: fastballs up and in, breaking stuff down and away. Yet he has terrific bat speed and power to all fields. He absolutely punishes mistakes. Since returning from Japan, where he was fed a steady diet of off-speed slop, Fielder is a much-improved breaking-ball hitter. Defensively, he doesn't move or throw particularly well, but is very good receiving throws and catches what he gets to.

Shortstop Alan Trammell's best days appear to be behind him. He's played in fewer than 130 games three of the past four years. Plagued by injuries last season, he appeared in a career-low 101 games and batted .248, 40 points below his career mark. Trammell still has a short stroke and line-drive power. His nine home runs and 55 RBIs last year project to 12 and 73 over 500 at-bats. Trammell is a technically sound infielder, sure-handed and a very accurate thrower. He has to rely on intelligent positioning to mask diminishing range, and unload the ball in a hurry to compensate for below-average arm strength.

Second baseman Lou Whitaker will team with Trammell for a 15th season, a major league longevity record for double-play partners. If last season is an indication, Whitaker is aging more gracefully than Trammell. The 5-11, 180-pound Whitaker continues to pull for power, especially in cozy Tiger Stadium. Fifteen of his 23 home runs last season came at home. He remains a selective hitter, walking 90 times in 572 plate appearances. Whitaker rarely starts against lefthanders anymore (.247, 2 homers in 97 at-bats last year), usually giving way to Tony Phillips. Although he has a reputation for playing on cruise control, Whitaker runs the bases wisely and still makes the plays in the field. His range isn't what it used to be, but he turns the double play as well as ever.

Sparky Anderson often refers to Phillips as his most valuable player. It's not hard to understand why. Phillips last season became the first player in history to start at least 10 games at five different positions — second base (35), third base (33), shortstop (10), outfield (43) and DH (17). Although he's comfortable anywhere, Phillips probably is best at second base. He has quick hands and feet, and an accurate arm. He began turning on the inside pitch more last year, which resulted in a power surge. A high-ball hitter from both sides, Phillips batted .357 righthanded, with 11 home runs in 154 at-bats (a Fielderesque ratio of one homer every 14 at-bats). Lefthanded, he was more Phillips-like, batting .256 with six homers. At 33, he still runs well.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

wpb Co. **But Deer is the greatest all-or-nothing proposition in the game. He's averaged 27 home runs and 166 strikeouts the past six seasons. Deer's extremes were greater than usual in 1991, when he clubbed 25 home runs but batted a career-low .179 and struck out a league-leading 175 times. That drove Deer to seek help from Walt Hriniaik during the off-season. They form an odd union, since Hriniaik values contact while Deer has spent his career swinging from his heels. That approach leaves the mistake-hitting Deer vulnerable to high fastballs and breaking pitches. Deer is an above-average rightfielder with a strong, accurate arm. However, he doesn't run as well as he used to, and needs to watch his weight.**

Dan Gladden, the Twins' leadoff hitter the past five years, was signed during the off-season to play left field. He is a hard-nosed, aggressive player who can give a team a spark. Yet the Twins concluded that Gladden's aggressiveness is a detriment in the leadoff position. Over the past two seasons, the free-swinging Gladden has had on-base percent-



Mickey Tettleton

William Henry "Skeeter" Barnes, with his seventh organization, has played every position except pitcher, catcher and shortstop in his itinerant, 14-year pro career.

DESIGNATED HITTER Super sub Tony Phillips allows Sparky Anderson the latitude to rotate regulars in the DH spot. That's a handy option when you have a number of key players on the wrong side of 30. Dave Bergman, 38, a fine contact hitter with occasional power, is another alternative.

GRADE (max. 10): **5.5**

MANAGEMENT

Sparky Anderson's credentials are impeccable. He's won the World Series in both leagues and been manager of the year in both. He has more victories (1,921-1,524) than all but seven managers in history. How does he do it? Sparky understands, more than most managers, the need for harmony in the clubhouse. He selects his players carefully and will not tolerate troublemakers. Sparky's teams consistently pose a threat because he is a master at negotiating the 162-game endurance test. The 58-year-old skipper should have more help this season, now that he has freshened his coaching staff by replacing old cronies with guys who are spry enough to throw batting practice, among other duties.

If Jim Campbell and Bo Schembechler allow him some autonomy, new general manager Jerry Walker should be effective. He is highly respected for his ability to evaluate talent, a reputation he gained as the Tigers' top scout. Walker played a key role in the signing of Cecil Fielder in January 1990, a transaction that may turn out to be one of the greatest in baseball history. Unfortunately for Walker, he apparently got the job as GM because no one else the Tigers were interested in hiring wanted any part of working for Campbell and Schembechler. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

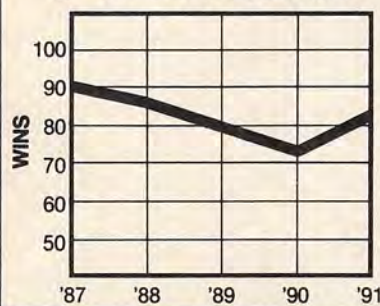
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PITCHERS														CATCHERS																
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB		
Aldred, Scott	L-L	6-4	195	23	AAA	8-8	3.92	22	0	135	127	72	95	258	Rowland, Rich	R-R	6-1	210	25	AAA	272	.374	383	56	104	25	0	13	68	4
					Detroit	2-4	5.18	11	0	57	58	30	35	266					Detroit	250	.333	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Castillo, Tony	L-L	5-10	188	29	AAA	5-6	2.90	23	0	118	89	32	78	211	Tettleton, Mickey	S-R	6-2	212	31	Detroit	263	.387	501	85	132	17	2	31	89	3
					Atlanta	1-1	7.27	7	0	9	13	5	8	342					Detroit	280	.333	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
					New York (NL)	1-0	1.90	10	0	24	27	6	10	281	INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Cummings, Steve	S-R	6-2	205	27	AAA	5-5	4.68	30	5	75	72	29	41	258	Bergman, Dave	L-L	6-2	195	38	Detroit	237	.351	194	23	46	10	1	7	29	1
DeSilva, John	R-R	6-0	193	24	AA-AAA	10-8	3.60	22	0	132	123	45	136	233	Brogna, Rico	L-L	6-2	190	21	AA-AAA	256	.302	425	53	109	18	2	15	64	2
Doherty, John	R-R	6-4	190	24	AAA	3-3	2.22	53	15	65	62	21	42	244	Fielder, Cecil	R-R	6-3	240	28	Detroit	261	.347	624	102	163	25	4	44	133	0
Gakeler, Dan	R-R	6-6	210	27	AAA	2-3	3.50	23	4	44	44	13	32	259	Fryman, Travis	R-R	6-1	180	23	Detroit	259	.309	557	65	144	36	3	21	91	12
					Detroit	1-4	5.74	31	2	74	73	39	43	256	Livingstone, Scott	L-R	6-0	185	26	AAA	302	.375	331	48	100	13	3	6	62	2
																		Detroit	291	.341	127	19	37	5	0	2	11	2		
Gohr, Greg	R-R	6-3	210	24	AA-AAA	10-8	4.39	28	0	159	134	68	106	229	Paredes, John	R-R	5-11	175	29	AAA	284	.355	514	82	146	25	6	1	53	36
Groom, Buddy	L-L	6-2	200	26	AA-AAA	9-6	3.90	35	0	127	124	37	88	253					Detroit	333	.333	18	4	6	0	0	0	0	1	
Gullickson, Bill	R-R	6-3	220	33	Detroit	20-9	3.90	35	0	226	256	44	91	288	Phillips, Tony	S-R	5-10	175	33	Detroit	284	.371	564	87	160	28	4	17	72	10
Haas, David	R-R	6-1	200	26	AAA	8-10	5.23	28	0	158	187	77	133	301	Rosario, Victor	R-R	5-11	155	25	AAA	300	.333	423	59	127	21	12	1	48	12
Henneman, Mike	R-R	6-4	195	30	Detroit	10-2	2.88	60	21	84	81	34	61	258	Trammell, Alan	R-R	6-0	175	34	AAA	248	.320	375	57	93	20	0	9	55	11
Kaiser, Jeff	R-L	6-3	195	30	AAA	3-0	2.08	16	1	35	35	11	28	265	Whitaker, Lou	L-R	5-11	180	34	Detroit	279	.391	470	94	131	26	2	23	78	4
					Detroit	0-1	9.00	10	2	5	6	5	4	286	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Kiley, John	R-R	6-3	210	27	AAA	4-2	2.13	42	6	72	57	35	60	222	Barnes, Skeeter	R-R	5-10	180	35	AAA	330	.397	233	48	77	14	0	9	40	27
					Detroit	0-1	14.85	7	0	7	13	9	1	448					Detroit	289	.325	159	28	46	13	2	5	17	10	
Knudsen, Kurt	R-R	6-2	185	25	AA-AAA	3-5	2.96	46	6	70	55	40	74	216	Carreon, Mark	R-L	6-0	195	28	New York (NL)	260	.297	254	18	66	6	0	4	21	2
Leiter, Mark	R-R	6-3	210	28	AAA	1-0	0.00	5	1	7	6	3	7	240	Cuyler, Mit	S-R	5-10	175	23	Detroit	257	.335	475	77	122	15	7	3	33	41
					Detroit	9-7	4.21	38	1	135	125	50	103	245	Deer, Rob	R-R	6-3	225	31	Detroit	179	.314	448	64	80	14	2	25	64	1
Munoz, Mike	L-L	6-3	195	26	AAA	2-3	3.83	38	8	54	44	35	38	223	Gladden, Dan	R-R	5-11	181	34	Minnesota	247	.306	461	65	114	14	9	6	52	15
					Detroit	0-0	9.64	6	0	9	14	5	3	350	Hare, Shawn	L-L	6-2	190	25	AA-AAA	297	.366	377	64	112	30	2	13	70	3
Ritz, Kevin	R-R	6-4	195	26	AAA	8-7	3.28	20	0	126	116	60	105	248					Detroit	.053	.143	19	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
					Detroit	0-3	11.74	11	0	15	17	22	9	288	Hurst, Jody	R-L	6-4	185	25	AA	278	.378	187	33	52	8	0	8	24	8
Tanana, Frank	L-L	6-3	195	38	Detroit	13-12	3.77	33	0	217	217	78	107	265	Ingram, Riccardo	R-R	6-0	198	25	AA	271	.338	421	57	114	14	1	18	64	6
Terrell, Walt	R-R	6-1	215	33	Detroit	12-14	4.24	35	0	219	257	79	80	301	Pegues, Steve	R-R	6-2	172	23	AA-AAA	263	.293	438	45	115	16	5	10	49	12
															Pemberton, Rudy	R-R	6-2	185	22	A	229	.292	375	40	86	15	2	3	36	25
Coaches: Billy Consolo: Larry Herndon: Billy Muffett: Gene Roff: Dick Tracewski: Dan Whitmer																														

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

1991 RECORD: 83-79 MANAGER: PHIL GARNER STADIUM: COUNTY (53,192)

5-YEAR SCAN



The Milwaukee Brewers didn't quit last season, winning 40 of their final 59 games and finishing a game out of second place in the American League East. They played well considering they lost Ted Higuera, Gary Sheffield, Edwin Nunez and Ron Robinson to injury and used the disabled list 16 times. Still, when the weather turned on Lake Michigan and the kids returned to school, the Brewers again were also-rans.

So, in one of baseball's smallest markets, with attendance sagging below 1.5 million, heads rolled. Out went Harry Dalton, the general manager since 1978. Out went Tom Trebelhorn, the manager labeled a genius when the Brewers were 91-71 in 1987. Out went nearly the entire scouting department. In came Sal Bando as GM, untested Phil Garner as manager, and Al Goldis, a Larry Himes disciple, as director of scouting and player development.

Owner Bud Selig always has been slow to make changes, but the Brewers had reached a point of no return. Dalton and Trebelhorn were scapegoats. "The problems weren't the problem of any one person," says Paul Molitor, "but the franchise needed to be energized."

Maybe it has been, but the same problems remain. The Brewers have few marketable players, no money to lure high-priced free agents, and virtually no minor league prospects ready to make a contribution. Furthermore, they are relying on an aging nucleus of Molitor, 35, and Robin Yount, 36, while fretting about the health of Higuera, Sheffield and Bill Spiers.

Milwaukee is capable of winning with its projected starting lineup, but sorely lacking in depth. The Brewers outscored opponents by 55 runs last season, comparing favorably with Toronto (62 runs better than its opponents), Detroit (23) and Boston (19). The players, excited about the changes in the front office and the dugout, know they need a miracle — namely, one healthy season — to win the division.

PITCHING One scout, citing the number of injuries to pitchers in San Francisco and Milwaukee, said, "There's no question that the wind contributes to both teams' injury problems. In no other parks does the wind whip right through the pitchers."

A remedy may be forthcoming. The Brewers are planning a new ballpark which they hope to have built by 1995. For now, they have to make do with County Stadium, homey, but dank and breezy.

Milwaukee's staff finished in the AL's bottom half last season in ERA, runs, hits and strikeouts. The pitchers were more effective in the second half after Doug Henry was installed as the closer and Dan Plesac was moved into the rotation. Offseason acquisitions Bruce Ruffin, Jesse Orosco and Mike Fetters should provide needed depth. Everyone will be working with a clean slate under new pitching coach Don Rowe. He replaces Larry Haney, who was fired in October.

STARTING PITCHING The Brewers last season had three pitchers win at least 14 games for the first time since 1979. Right-handers Bill Wegman, Jaime Navarro and Chris Bosio are solid pitchers. Each would be a No. 3 starter on a good team.

Wegman in the past three years has pitched 274 innings and spent 270 days on the disabled list. After undergoing major elbow surgery in 1990, he got stronger as last season progressed. Throwing pain-free enabled Wegman to put more bite on his breaking pitches and sustain consistent 90-mph heat. He changes speeds well, keeps the ball down and yielded fewer gopher balls in '91 than in previous seasons. Wegman was one of the AL's best pitchers in the second half last year, going 11-4 with a 2.39 ERA and seven complete games. The Brewers are betting a four-year, \$9.5 million contract that Wegman is for real. In six seasons prior to 1991, he was 36-44 with a 4.63 ERA.

Navarro's 15 victories last season were no fluke. The 25-year-old righthander has a 93-mph fastball with wicked sinking action, and is a workhorse. He was much more effective than in 1990, when he twice was demoted to the minor leagues, because he was able to stay on top of his slider and find the strike zone on a regular basis. Navarro still is learning to change speeds. When he masters his straight change-up, he should supplant Wegman as the No. 1 starter.

Bosio seems to excel every other year, posting winning records in 1987, '89 and '91, losing marks in 1988 and '90. The Bret Saberhagen comparisons end there, however. Bosio never has been a dominant pitcher, but can be effective when he keeps the ball down and hitters off-balance with his five-pitch repertoire: 88-mph fastball, slider, forkball, curve and

change-up. The fastball has good movement, the slider quick-breaking action. Bosio uses the curve as an off-speed pitch for lefthanded batters. A workhorse, he gives the team 200 innings and isn't afraid to pitch inside.

The Brewers are confident Wegman, Navarro and Bosio can be consistent winners. With Dan Plesac, they're not sure. Plesac once rated with John Franco as the most reliable lefthanded closers in the major leagues, but lost command of his world-class slider and began blowing saves regularly. In a move two parts desperation and one part Doug Henry, the Brewers placed Plesac in the rotation last August. After a short adjustment period, he pitched well. Plesac throws a 92-mph fastball, but lacks a feel for changing speeds and tends to rush his delivery and open up too soon. Getting him squared away mechanically will be a big challenge for Don Rowe.

Teddy Higuera once was an ace. The Brewers still pay the 33-year-old lefthander a princely sum, but have grown tired of getting nothing in return. Higuera, who hasn't pitched a complete season since 1988, underwent major shoulder surgery last August and isn't expected back before June. The Brewers were pleased that Higuera spent the winter in Arizona, working out at their spring training complex, rather than disappear into Mexico. When healthy, he gets batters out with a slider, screwball and pinpoint control.

Other candidates for the rotation include lefthander Bruce Ruffin and rookie righthander Cal Eldred. Ruffin, acquired from Philadelphia for Dale Sveum, showed promise as a 1986 rookie, but developed Steve Blass disease and posted progressively higher ERAs in each season until reversing the trend in 1991. Eldred, a first-round draft pick in 1989, throws hard and has a good curve. He might be ready, after winning 10 of his final 11 decisions in Triple-A last year.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

RELIEF PITCHING The Brewers gave up on Dan Plesac, but not on the idea of having a dominant closer. They just didn't know Doug Henry would be the guy.

Henry, a 1985 draft pick out of Arizona State, had arm problems that apparently were solved when he underwent right elbow surgery in 1989. Milwaukee, enamored of his toughness, finally promoted Henry last July and was well rewarded. He earned 15 saves in 16 opportunities, posted a 1.00 ERA, limited opponents to a .133 batting average and did not yield a run in his final 14 appearances. Henry throws a 92-mph fastball with superb movement and a sharp-breaking 85-mph slider.

The Brewers had high hopes for righthander Edwin Nunez, but his '91 season was ruined by a ruptured disk in his back that required surgery. Nunez was throwing easily the past

winter and expected to be at full strength for spring training. An intimidating presence at 6-5, 240 pounds, he throws hard, has good movement on his fastball and slider, and gets out lefthanded batters with a nasty forkball.

Milwaukee acquired veteran Jesse Orosco from Cleveland for lefthanded setup duty, a questionable move considering Orosco's age (35) and poor second-half performance (4.76 ERA, .388 opponents' batting average) last season. Orosco's repertoire includes a tight slider and curve. His sweeping, three-quarters delivery can be distracting to lefthanded batters.

Mark Lee could figure, since he continues to throw from the port side. A one-speed pitcher, he struggles with control and command of his slider. Lee's upper-80s fastball has good tailing action.

The emergence of righthander Julio Machado last season enabled the Brewers to trade Chuck Crim to California. However, Machado's status is unclear, after he admitted to shooting a woman to death in Venezuela last December. A sidearmer with a herky-jerky motion, Machado can pitch often and has good life on his fastball and slider, qualities of no value if he's behind bars.

Righthanders Mike Fetters and Chris George will compete in spring training for a roster spot. Fetters, acquired in the Crim deal, has good stuff but lacks a pitch he consistently can throw for strikes. George challenges batters with power pitches, keeps the ball down and induces ground-ball outs.

GRADE
(max. 10): 5.5

CATCHING B.J. Surhoff, the first player selected in the 1985 June draft, has himself to blame for taking seven seasons to develop into a quality everyday catcher. Surhoff always has fought the demons within. When faced with adversity, he has tossed bats, broken helmets and let one bad at-bat carry over into the next. "I can't believe what's happened to me," Surhoff said last June. "I guess I'm killing myself."

Having seen the error of his ways, Surhoff hit .323 after the All-Star break and started catching and throwing with a purpose. He doesn't enjoy working behind the plate, but has improved his release time, accuracy and approach to calling a game. Surhoff hits line drives, uses the whole field, bunts well and can steal a base. Pitchers get him out with breaking pitches, though he has improved at making adjustments. A terrific athlete, Surhoff could move to another position, probably third base, when Dave Nilsson is ready to take over behind the plate.

Nilsson, from Australia, led full-season minor leaguers in batting average (.366) last year, but was limited to 344 at-bats because of a minor left shoulder injury that required surgery. A lefthanded hitter, he has gap power and sprays the ball to all fields. Big, soft hands are his primary asset defensively. Defensive whiz Joe Kmak or journeyman Andy Allanson will back up Surhoff while Nilsson receives more seasoning in Triple-A.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

INFIELD The Brewers traded Dale Sveum and let Willie Randolph bolt to the

Mets, leaving Mario Diaz as the only infield reserve with big league experience. One injury could be disastrous.

Third baseman Gary Sheffield, 23, has played in just 270 games the past three seasons, including just 50 in '91 before undergoing shoulder surgery. Scouts question Sheffield's durability and dedication, not his talent. He has a quick bat, uses the whole field and

Jaime Navarro



with maturity should hit 20 home runs annually. He adjusts well to breaking pitches and murders high fastballs. Defensively, Sheffield has a strong but erratic arm, stiff hands, and doesn't like to get in front of the ball despite having superb lateral range. The shoulder surgery, which cleared an impingement, may help his throwing. This will be a pivotal season for Sheffield, who has been unpopular in the clubhouse. Tom Trebelhorn treated him with kid gloves. Phil Garner is more likely to get in his face.

Shortstop Bill Spiers underwent right elbow surgery last October, major back surgery in November and corrective back surgery in December, but is expected to be at full strength by the middle of spring training. If not, the Brewers will open the season with Diaz at short. A dependable gloveman, Diaz hit a punchless .264 in 96 games with Texas last year.

Spiers is coming off his best season in nearly every offensive category. Scouts attribute Spiers' success to the elbow injury, which forced the lefthanded hitter to shorten his swing. The compact stroke produced a .283 average — .320 with runners in scoring position — and occasional bursts of power. Primarily a pull hitter, Spiers looks for low fastballs. Defensively, the elbow surgery, on the heels of shoulder surgery in 1989, should enable him to throw pain-free and curb tailing action on his pegs to first base. Spiers rates slightly below average among AL shortstops because he doesn't go to his right well and has ordinary hands.

Jim Gantner, 38, is a throwback — a tough, Punch-and-Judy hitter who will play hurt and find a way to get the job done. Second base is his to lose, though rookie William Suero is expected to offer a serious challenge in spring training. Gantner, splitting time between second and third last season, committed only 12 errors. He isn't fluid, but catches what he gets to and has an average arm. A contact hitter, he prefers the ball up, has decent bat speed and likes to go the other way. Gumbly went 1,762 at-bats from 1987 to last September without a home run before hitting one off Dave Stewart. Suero has hard hands but good range, and can turn the double play.

First baseman Franklin Stubbs had a forgettable '91 season, slumping to .213 and 11 home runs after hitting .261 with 23 long balls in 1990 for the Astros. The Brewers hope Garner, who worked with Stubbs in Houston, can get the lefthanded hitter untracked. It could be an overwhelming task. Stubbs never could hit a breaking ball, and that's about all he sees in this league. His long, slow swing is a liability against high fastballs, though he has the strength to hit mistakes a long way. A poor defensive player, Stubbs lacks range and has stiff hands. The Brewers may start turning their attention to John Jaha, 25, who had a monster '91 season in Double-A, though scouts aren't convinced he's any better than Stubbs at hitting a breaking pitch.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

OUTFIELD Something odd happened with Robin Yount last season: He admitted to an injury. For two months in 1990 he barely could grip a bat because of a bone bruise and had leg pain that kept him awake at night, yet said nothing. Last year, however, Yount was undone by kidney stones, forcing him onto the disabled list for the first time since 1978.

When he achieves his 3,000th hit in June or

July, Yount virtually will clinch a Hall of Fame berth. Stan Musial, Hank Greenberg and Yount are the only players to win MVP awards at two different positions. However, 18 seasons have taken a toll on Yount. His bat has slowed, and his power and speed have faded. He still can jerk an inside pitch, if it's down in the strike zone, and is a master at making adjustments and hitting to the opposite field. Yount remains a fine centerfielder, ranging well in all directions. By charging balls aggressively, he compensates for below-average arm strength.

Sal Bando said the past winter that he expects Yount to retire after this season. Though Yount downplayed those comments, he has little left to accomplish, short of playing for a World Series champion.

Since moving to center field in 1985, Yount has seen Ben Oglivie and Rob Deer come and go on either side of him, and now is flanked by Greg Vaughn and Darryl Hamilton. Vaughn began last season on the bench, quickly forced his way into the lineup when Candy Maldonado was injured, and became the team's top run producer. A dead pull hitter, Vaughn has a quick bat and feasts on balls up in the strike zone. Though streaky, he puts up numbers quickly when in a groove. Last year he had five or more RBIs in a game five times, a club record. Vaughn has improved in left field, cutting his errors from seven as a 1990 rookie to two last year. His hands and arm are below average, but he gets a good jump and runs well.

Hamilton, a natural centerfielder, will play right field until Yount retires. Hamilton gets a good jump, runs well, plays caroms adroitly and throws with a strong, accurate arm. The Brewers knew he could field, but Hamilton's offensive production last season was a revelation. He hit .327 after the All-Star break, had a 19-game hitting streak that ended in August and was working on a 15-gamer when the season ended. He hit .368 with runners in scoring position. Hamilton has no power and can be fooled by breaking pitches. He has a career .529 average (9 for 17) with the bases loaded.

Dante Bichette has a power bat and the arm



to play right field. If he's ever going to be more than an extra man, Bichette needs to learn some patience at the plate. He falls behind in the count frequently, leaving himself easy prey for breaking pitches. His on-base percentage last season was lower than Franklin Stubbs'. Bichette is somewhat mechanical in the outfield and makes too many throwing mistakes.

DESIGNATED HITTER It often is said that Paul Molitor would be Hall of Fame material had injuries not marred his career. A few more seasons like 1991 would give him a fighting chance for enshrinement in Cooperstown.

Molitor, uninterrupted by injury, batted .325 and led the majors in hits and runs last year. He had seven games with four or more hits and homered six times leading off a game. He is second all-time behind Rickey Henderson in leadoff home runs, with 33. Molitor hits any kind of pitch with authority, runs well and provides a spark at the top of the lineup. He is a career .313 hitter as a DH.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

MANAGEMENT Budget constraints prevented new general manager Sal Bando from making substantial on-field personnel changes during the offseason. He did, however, overhaul the minor league and scouting departments, giving Al Goldis control of both. It will take a few years to determine the merits of the move.

Bando hired a friend, Phil Garner, as manager, even though Don Baylor would have been a better choice. Neither has managerial experience, but Baylor at least knows the Brewers personnel, having been on the coaching staff the past two years. Garner, who hasn't been in the American League since 1976, promises an aggressive approach to the game and even-handed treatment of players. If the Brewers maintain good health, Garner could be their best manager since the last guy who operated under the same circumstances — Tom Trebelhorn.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

Greg Vaughn

T.Q.[®]32.5

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA
Austin, James	R-R	6-2	200	28	AAA	6-3	2.45	20	3	44	35	24	37	.224
					Milwaukee	0-0	8.31	5	0	9	8	11	3	.276
Bosio, Chris	R-R	6-3	225	29	Milwaukee	14-10	3.25	32	0	205	187	58	117	.244
Brown, Kevin	L-L	6-1	185	26	AAA	4-3	4.67	12	0	62	71	34	31	.298
					Milwaukee	2-4	5.51	15	0	64	66	34	30	.270
Eldred, Cal	R-R	6-4	215	24	AAA	13-9	3.75	29	0	185	161	84	168	.239
					Milwaukee	2-0	4.50	3	0	16	20	6	10	.299
Elvira, Narciso	L-L	5-10	160	24	AAA	0-4	5.96	18	0	80	100	40	52	.312
Fetters, Mike	R-R	6-4	212	27	AAA	2-7	4.87	11	0	61	65	26	43	.262
					California	2-5	4.84	19	0	45	53	28	24	.305
George, Chris	R-R	6-2	200	25	AAA	4-5	2.33	43	4	85	74	26	65	.238
					Milwaukee	0-0	3.00	2	0	6	8	0	2	.333
Green, Otis	L-L	6-2	192	28	A-AAA	12-4	2.43	21	0	126	76	58	155	.172
Henry, Doug	R-R	6-4	185	28	AAA	3-2	2.18	32	14	58	47	20	47	.230
					Milwaukee	2-1	1.00	31	15	36	16	14	28	.133
Higuera, Ted	S-L	5-10	178	33	AAA	1-0	2.08	2	0	9	6	6	6	.188
					Milwaukee	3-2	4.46	7	0	36	37	10	33	.262
Holmes, Darren	R-R	6-0	199	25	AAA	0-0	9.00	1	1	1	1	2	2	.250
					Milwaukee	1-4	4.72	40	3	76	90	27	59	.295
Ignasiak, Mike	S-R	5-11	175	26	AAA	9-5	4.25	24	1	138	119	57	103	.228
					Milwaukee	2-1	5.68	4	0	13	7	8	10	.163
Kiefer, Mark	R-R	6-4	175	23	AA-AAA	16-6	4.07	29	0	177	166	84	140	.247
Lee, Mark	L-L	6-3	200	27	Milwaukee	2-5	3.86	62	1	68	72	31	43	.283
Machado, Julio	R-R	5-9	165	26	Milwaukee	3-3	3.45	54	3	89	65	55	98	.211
Miranda, Angel	L-L	6-1	160	22	AA-AAA	4-3	3.03	49	2	86	65	58	100	.209
Navarro, Jaime	R-R	6-4	210	25	Milwaukee	15-12	3.92	34	0	234	237	73	114	.261
Nunez, Edwin	R-R	6-5	240	28	A	0-1	4.00	5	1	9	9	0	9	.250
					Milwaukee	2-1	6-4	23	8	25	28	13	24	.277
Orosco, Jesse	R-L	6-2	185	35	Cleveland	2-0	3.74	47	0	46	52	15	36	.286
Plesac, Dan	L-L	6-5	215	30	Milwaukee	2-7	4.29	45	8	92	92	39	61	.263

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA
Robinson, Ron	R-R	6-4	235	30	Milwaukee	0-1	6.23	1	0	4	6	3	0	.353
Ruffin, Bruce	S-L	6-2	213	28	Philadelphia	4-7	3.78	31	0	119	125	38	85	.272
Wegman, Bill	R-R	6-5	220	29	Milwaukee	15-7	2.84	28	0	193	176	40	89	.242

CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Allanson, Andy	R-R	6-5	220	30	Detroit	.232	.266	151	10	35	10	0	1	16	0
Kmak, Joe	R-R	6-0	185	28	AAA	.238	.314	294	34	70	17	2	1	33	7
Nilsson, Dave	L-R	6-3	185	22	AA-AAA	.366	.437	344	62	126	32	3	6	71	5
Surhoff, B.J.	L-R	6-1	200	27	Milwaukee	.289	.319	505	57	146	19	4	5	68	5

INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Diaz, Mario	R-R	5-10	160	30	Texas	.264	.318	182	24	48	7	0	1	22	0
Gantner, Jim	R-R	5-11	175	38	Milwaukee	.283	.320	526	63	149	27	4	2	47	4
Jaha, John	R-R	6-1	195	25	AA	.344	.438	486	121	167	38	3	30	134	12
Listach, Pat	R-R	5-9	170	24	AA-AAA	.252	.352	472	91	119	15	6	1	44	37
McIntosh, Tim	R-R	5-11	195	27	AAA	.292	.354	462	69	135	19	9	18	91	2
					Milwaukee	.364	.364	7	2	4	1	0	1	1	0
Molitor, Paul	R-R	6-0	185	35	Milwaukee	.325	.399	665	133	216	32	13	17	75	19
Sheffield, Gary	R-R	5-11	190	23	Milwaukee	.194	.277	175	25	34	12	2	2	22	5
Spier, Bill	L-R	6-2	190	25	Milwaukee	.283	.337	414	71	117	13	6	8	54	14
Stubbs, Franklin	L-L	6-2	209	31	Milwaukee	.213	.282	362	48	77	16	2	11	38	13
Suero, William	R-R	5-9	175	25	AAA	.386	.457	70	20	27	3	2	0	15	3
Tatum, Jim	R-R	6-2	200	24	AA	.320	.399	493	99	158	27	8	18	128	5

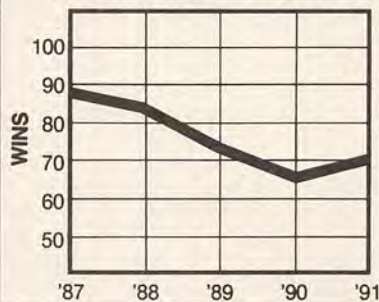
OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Bichette, Dante	R-R	6-3	225	28	Milwaukee	.238	.272	445	53	106	18	3	15	59	14
Hamilton, Darryl	L-R	6-1	180	27	Milwaukee	.311	.361	405	64	126	15	6	1	57	16
Olander, Jim	R-R	6-1	185	29	AAA	.325	.405	498	89	162	32	10	9	78	14
					Milwaukee	.000	.182	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vaughn, Greg	R-R	6-0	193	26	Milwaukee	.244	.319	542	81	132	24	5	27	98	2
Yount, Robin	R-R	6-0	180	36	Milwaukee	.260	.332	503	66	131	20	4	10	77	6

Coaches — Bill Castro, Duffy Dyer, Mike Easter, Tim Folt, Don Rowe

NEW YORK YANKEES

1991 RECORD: 71-91 MANAGER: BUCK SHOWALTER STADIUM: YANKEE (57,545)

5-YEAR SCAN



The only thing great any more about the Yankees is their tradition.

The greats and the glory years that established the Yankees as one of the premier franchises in sports are but a distant memory. Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra, fired as manager by principal owner George Steinbrenner after only 16 games of the 1985 season, is so incensed by the way the team is run that he boycotted Old-Timers' Day ceremonies.

The seamy Steinbrenner supposedly has not participated in day-to-day decisions since he agreed to resign as managing general partner in July 1990 — the penalty for his involvement with admitted gambler Howard Spira. Steinbrenner paid Spira for information as part of a dirt-gathering effort aimed at then Yankees outfielder Dave Winfield.

When late commissioner Bart Giamatti forced Steinbrenner to resign, the franchise was in disarray. Steinbrenner's penchant for changing managers and general managers caused the Yankees to become a team without a plan or direction. His lavish spending on free agents in the 1980s brought to the Bronx assorted busts while depriving the organization of top draft choices.

The Boss is eligible for reinstatement in July, and there is little doubt that he has gotten a head start on his return. The January free-agent signings of Danny Tartabull and Mike Gallego smacked of Steinbrenner, right down to the roast beef and shrimp served at the news conference to introduce the newest Yankees of wealth. (The club had gone to cold cuts for such functions when George really was out of the picture.)

For all of Steinbrenner's bluster, the Yankees need him. They had no chance while he was away. Before leaving, he effectively paralyzed the organization by placing minions in key positions whom he knew wouldn't dare make a major decision.

The Yankees have not won the American League East since 1981. They have not placed higher than fourth since 1986. Their record

deteriorated for five successive seasons before they showed an oh-so-slight four-game improvement last year. At that, their 71-91 mark was fourth worst in the major leagues.

PITCHING A drastic shortage of starting pitching has played the biggest part — aside from Steinbrenner — in the fall of the Yankees. The team cannot hope to return to contention until the rotation is strengthened. The starters last year were 45-68 with a 5.07 ERA. They completed what they started only three times, ranking a distant last in the AL in complete games.

Repeated attempts to quick-fix the rotation with over-the-hill veterans have failed miserably. The Yankees now are focused on developing pitchers, with hopes centering around lefthander Brien Taylor, the first pick in last June's draft.

STARTING PITCHING The Yankees again will rely heavily on righthander Scott Sanderson, which says much about the bedraggled state of the rotation. Sanderson, who turns 36 in July, essentially is a six-inning pitcher.

Last season Sanderson accounted for 22.5 percent of the Yankees' 71 victories, the third-best percentage in the major leagues. His 16 wins were the most by a Yankees pitcher since Rick Rhoden won 16 in 1987. Think that's an eye-opener? Sanderson's 208 innings were the most by a Yankee since 1985.

Sanderson is a master at finding hitters' weaknesses and exploiting them. He has excellent control, ranking second in the AL last season in walks per nine innings (1.3) and second in the majors in strikeout/walk ratio (4.5 to 1), trailing Greg Swindell in both categories. Sanderson spots his fastball and changes speeds with a big overhand curve. He mixes in a slider and forkball.

The Yankees think this may be the year righthander Pascual Perez gives them something in return for their money and trouble. The colorful Dominican, signed as a free agent in November 1989, underwent rotator cuff surgery during the 1990 season and has made only 17 starts the past two years. Ten came in the final seven weeks last season, when Perez did not miss a turn. For the year, Perez was 2-4 with a 3.18 ERA, and permitted more than three runs in only two starts. Perez doesn't appear to have lost any velocity. His fastball still registers around 90 mph, with good movement down in the strike zone. But he didn't always have snap on his quick, running slider last season, leaving too many hanging over the plate. Perez, who shows hitters a lot of motion, has developed a deceptive straight change that pitching coach Mark Connor is urging him to throw more.

Righthander Tim Leary, the Opening Day

starter last season, struggled to a 4-8 record and 6.30 ERA in the first half and was banished to the bullpen. If he's to rebound, Leary needs to regain the bite on his bread-and-butter split-finger pitch. Regaining the proper grip and release point for the pitch has been a chore for Leary. Even when he has the forkball and his low-90s fastball working, Leary finds ways to lose. He's 58-85 lifetime, 21-43 the past three years.

Newly acquired Melido Perez, Pascual's younger brother, features a full assortment, including a fastball that rides up and a forkball that dives sharply. When focused and in sync, the skinny righthander dominates hitters. "Watch out if he's effective early," says a scout. Yet Perez frustrates easily and lets adversity get him out of rhythm. Never sure which pitcher was going to show up, the White Sox moved Perez to the bullpen after eight starts last season. He responded with seven relief wins and a strikeout/walk ratio of 3.7 to 1.

In an attempt to accelerate their rebuilding process, the Yankees broke in three rookie starters last June — righthanders Wade Taylor and Scott Kamieniecki, and lefty Jeff Johnson.

Taylor was 7-7 before dropping his final five decisions and closing with a 6.27 ERA. Yet there is every reason to expect significant improvement. Taylor has heavy sinking action on a 90-mph fastball, a short, quick slider he uses frequently, a passable curve and a change-up for show. To succeed, Taylor needs to stay within himself and improve his command. He won't be a winner until he can throw his breaking stuff for strikes when behind in the count.

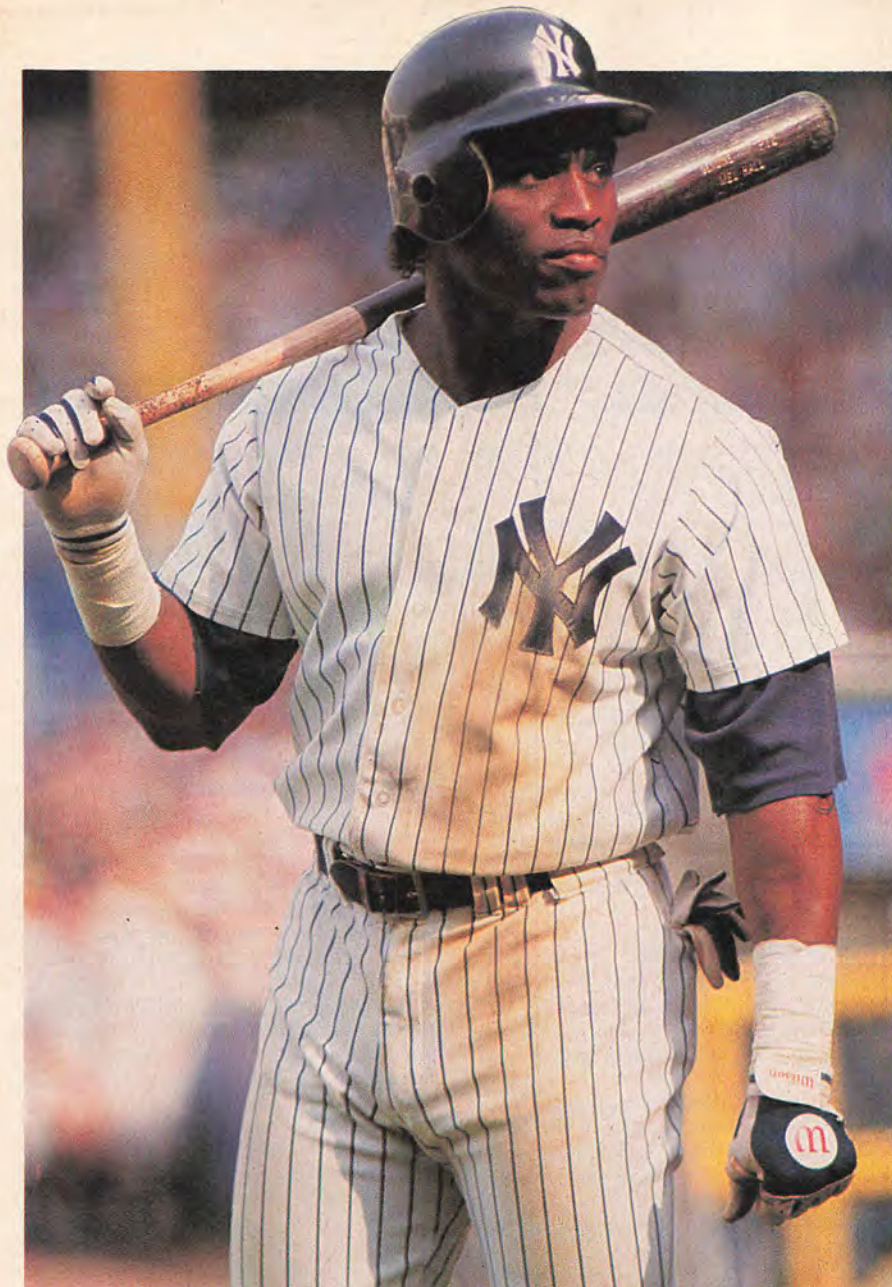
Johnson exhibited better control than Taylor, but found it difficult to get by with his good, tailing fastball and straight change. The development of a consistent breaking pitch is mandatory. Johnson can't pitch upstairs. Thirty percent of the runs he allowed (25 of 84) were a result of the long ball.

The major question with Kamieniecki, 28, is his soundness. He impressed the Yankees, yielding three or fewer runs in seven of his nine starts. He went on the disabled list in August and later had surgery to repair a disk in his neck.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

RELIEF PITCHING Yankees relievers pitched often and well in '91. Steve Farr, John Habyan, Greg Cadaret and Lee Guetterman each made 60 or more appearances — the first time more than two Yankees had worked that frequently in a season. The 3.41 ERA posted by the relief corps was fourth best among AL bullpens.

At 35, Farr remains a valuable reliever. Though best suited for a setup role, he's a



Mel Hall

capable closer, which he proved last season when he notched 23 saves in 29 tries. Farr doesn't have the overpowering gas or trick delivery associated with a closer, but establishes his fastball on the inside part of the plate, changes speeds with a big, biting curve and mixes in a change-up he turns over. Most important, the herky-jerky righthander throws strikes.

Farr, who finished last season with a tender shoulder, must be handled carefully and limited to the final inning whenever possible. Last year he fashioned a 1.48 ERA in 48 appearances in which he worked one inning or less. In 12 appearances of more than one inning, his ERA swelled to 3.29.

Lefthander Steve Howe, who was being counted on to carry more of the late-inning load this season, faces a jam (involving drugs) that he may not be able to escape. If Howe is history, righthander Habyan could wind up with more save opportunities. Last year Habyan retired the first batter he faced 49 of 67 times (73 percent) and limited opponents to a .225 average. His strikeout/walk ratio was an excellent 3.5 to 1. Habyan gets good movement on a low-90s fastball and chills

righthanded hitters with two different sliders. One is a short, cutter-like pitch he can throw whenever he needs a strike. The other is a bigger, nastier strikeout pitch. The principal criticism of Habyan is that he's a one-speed pitcher. The change-up he's working on could eliminate that knock.

Cadaret, a versatile lefty, has plugged holes in the rotation in each of his three seasons with the Yankees. He longs to be a closer but lacks the requisite control (59 walks in 122 innings last season). His '91 numbers suggest he belongs in middle/long relief. On the 31 occasions he pitched more than one inning last year, he compiled a 2.33 ERA. On the seven occasions he worked three-plus innings, his ERA was 1.16. Cadaret's lively fastball is supplemented by a hard slider and a forkball he likes to use against righthanded hitters. He'll mix in an occasional curve to lefthanders. To make the most of his excellent arm, Cadaret needs to stay in sync with his funky delivery and nibble less with his heater.

Guetterman, a tall lefty, has averaged 66 appearances the past three years, and the heavy load may be taking a toll. His ERA was 4.99 after the All-Star break last season. Guetter-

man, who relies heavily on a sinking fastball, has to stay down in the strike zone to be effective. At his best when confronting the left-handed portion of an order, Guetterman held lefties to a .175 average last year. Righties banged him at a .305 clip.

Righthander Alan Mills may find a spot if he can throw strikes with his low-90s heater and hard slider. **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

CATCHING Matt Nokes proved to be a perfect fit in Yankee Stadium. In his first full season in pinstripes, he paced the club in homers (24, 13 at home) and finished second in RBIs (77). His 24 long balls were the most by a Yankees catcher since Elston Howard's 28 in 1963. Nokes even held his own against lefties, hitting .261 in 111 at-bats.

Nokes, a dead pull hitter, turns low fastballs around in a hurry. Consequently, he sees a lot of off-speed stuff and fastballs up and in or off the plate. Nokes has worked hard to upgrade his defense, and made progress under the tutelage of former bullpen coach Marc Hill. His footwork and throwing were much improved last season, though that's not reflected in the numbers. Nokes stopped only 31 of 129 runners. While athletic limitations preclude Nokes from ever being a top receiver, he has plenty of room to improve upon his handling of pitchers.

The Yankees released a solid receiver in Bob Geren to make room for John Ramos, 26. He batted .308 last year with both Triple-A Columbus and the Yankees. Like Nokes, Ramos is much better at the plate than behind it. **GRADE (max. 10): 6.0**

INFIELD Yankees captain Don Mattingly, plagued by inoperable back problems, no longer is the run producer he was in the mid-to-late 1980s. In 587 at-bats last season, Mattingly, who turns 31 in April, had nine home runs and 68 RBIs. The free-agent signing of Danny Tartabull permits the Yankees to move Mattingly from the No. 3 slot to No. 2.

Mattingly's back trouble has forced him to adopt a more upright stance, depriving him of power he used to generate from a coiled crouch. Yet pitchers still treat him with great care. Mattingly likes to see one pitch before swinging into action, and pitchers often take advantage of that tendency to pick up a quick strike. Then they stay off the plate, primarily with hard stuff, tempting Mattingly to offer at something out of the strike zone. He frequently will.

Mattingly's defense remains state of the art. The graceful infielder has exceptionally quick hands and feet, and is peerless at triggering the double play. Last season Mattingly was involved in more double plays (135) than any other first baseman in the majors.

Highly regarded Pat Kelly, 24, steps in at second base, replacing Steve Sax, who was traded to the White Sox. A smooth defender, Kelly has much better range and hands than Sax, and is more efficient turning the double play. Offensively, he has the tools to develop into a Sax-type hitter. Last season Kelly played out of position at third base and never got comfortable in the field or at the plate.

To hear shortstop-turned-broadcaster Phil Rizzuto tell it, Alvaro Espinoza is one of the best defensive shortstops in the AL. A veteran advance scout disagrees. "I rank him near the middle along with (Omar) Vizquel. He has soft hands and gets in good position to throw, but his range to either side is below average."

In short, Espinoza evokes few memories of The Scooter.

With the bat, Espinoza benefits from the presence of batting coach-guru Frank Howard, who encourages him to shorten his swing and go the other way. Espinoza turns a deaf ear when counseled about patience. He walked 16 times last season, twice in his last 227 plate appearances.

Third baseman Charlie Hayes, acquired in trade from Philadelphia, will be a welcome sight for Yankees pitchers. Last season the eight players New York trotted out to third combined to commit 37 errors. Hayes has quick reactions, feet and hands. He excels going to his right, and has a strong, accurate arm.

Hayes has yet to blossom into the run producer scouts predicted. A dead fastball hitter, he has some pop from the middle of the plate in. Yet he has no patience, and breaking balls eat him alive. What's worse, Hayes appears unwilling to make adjustments.

Versatile Mike Gallego, signed in January as a free agent, can step in at second, short and third without missing a beat. Second base, which he played regularly for the A's the past two seasons, is his best position. Ultra-quick turning the deuce, Gallego delighted Oakland fans with his skidding stops and off-balance throws. At shortstop, his range — minus the skids — is average, his arm a little below. Offensively, the sawed-off Gallego has a short stroke and can jerk high fastballs (career-high 12 homers in '91). Surprisingly, he lacks good instincts on the bases.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

OUTFIELD The Yankees granted Danny Tartabull a mega-bucks contract to be the game-breaking cleanup hitter they've lacked since Dave Winfield's heyday.

The ball jumps off Tartabull's quick, productive bat. In eight seasons, he has averaged a home run every 19.2 at-bats and an RBI every 5.5. Last season Tartabull was the whole offensive show in Kansas City. With little protection in the order, he led the majors in slugging (.593) and the AL in batting with runners in scoring position (.374). He finished among the AL leaders in batting (.316), home runs (31) and RBIs (100). A note of caution: Tar-

tabull is a fly-ball hitter whose power concentration extends from right-center to left-center. Yankee Stadium has the deepest left-center alley (399 feet) in the major leagues.

The Yankees didn't confer millions upon Tartabull for his defense, which is a good thing. He's a below-average rightfielder. Tartabull also has a reputation for being a selfish player and somewhat of a malingerer.

Like Tartabull, leftfielder Mel Hall gets average to below-average grades for his defense. He doesn't get particularly good jumps or throw well. Offense is the name of Hall's game. Threatened with a seat at the end of the bench last spring training, Hall responded with a career year, setting personal highs in home runs (19) and RBIs (team-leading 80). The biggest surprise, though, was the way Hall battled lefthanders. He batted .309 against them, a stark contrast to his previous .164 career average. Hall, who never has seen a fastball he couldn't turn around, waited better on breaking pitches last season and made better contact.

Whenever New York talks trade, other teams invariably begin the conversation with one name — Roberto Kelly. The 27-year-old outfielder appears on the verge of stardom.

Kelly provides an attractive combination of speed (32 stolen bases last season) and power (20 home runs). He joined Jose Canseco and Joe Carter in last season's AL 20/20 club, despite missing six weeks because of a sprained wrist. Maturing rapidly as a hitter, Kelly has gained a better idea of how he's being pitched. He is staying back on breaking balls and taking them the opposite way, yet is quick to turn on fastballs from the middle of the plate in. Much to Kelly's chagrin, he was asked to move from center field to left to accommodate rookie Bernie Williams in the second half last season. Scouts understand Kelly's reluctance; they feel he's a first-class centerfielder.

Williams is a raw talent, to say the least. At this stage, blinding speed is his main asset. A switch-hitter with a slap-and-dash approach, Williams needs to make better contact to take full advantage of his speed. He struck out once every 5.6 at-bats in '91. On the flip side, Williams showed enough discipline to walk 48 times in 320 at-bats, and turned into Lou Gehrig with runners in scoring position (.343).

Maybe the most disappointing aspect of Williams' play was his lack of instincts. Despite stealing 10 of 15 bases, he made too many base-running gaffes. Plus, his flying feet often had to compensate for his slow reads in center field.

DESIGNATED HITTER Kevin Maas enters a pivotal season. After being rookie of the year runner-up in 1990, when he had 21 home runs and 41 RBIs in three months, Maas last year plunged to .220 with 23 homers and 63 RBIs. He hit .180 with runners in scoring position, and tagged 15 of his 23 long balls with the bases empty. After the All-Star break, his numbers were .181, 9, 29.

Maas, a muscular lefthanded hitter, tried too hard to reach the inviting right-field porch in Yankee Stadium. Too much an uppercutter and too pull-conscious, he hit .178 in the Bronx compared with .258 on the road. Unless Maas takes the outside pitch the other way and stays off the ball up and in, he's an easy mark for smart pitchers.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

MANAGEMENT It takes a great front office to undo the damage done to the Yankees in recent years. The Yankees have anything but that. Gene Michael's competence as a general manager must be questioned, yet judging Michael is difficult because he often finds himself without full authority. Although he wanted to hire a manager with major league experience and eliminated Buck Showalter for that reason, he later reversed himself and hired Showalter after being coaxed into doing so by upper management.

Showalter, who turns 36 in May, has been in the organization for 15 years, serving as the Yankees third base coach since June 1990. He has the players' respect, is a workaholic, and as a manager in the minors demonstrated a knack for handling a pitching staff and employing strategy. One of Showalter's biggest supporters is his former minor league teammate, Don Mattingly. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.0**

T.Q.32.5

PITCHERS															
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA		
Cadaret, Greg	L-L	6-3	215	30	New York	8-6	3.62	68	3	122	110	59	106	246	
Eiland, David	R-R	6-3	212	25	AAA	6-1	2.40	9	0	60	54	7	18	232	
				New York	2-5	5.33	18	0	73	87	23	18	302		
Farr, Steve	R-R	5-11	206	35	New York	5-5	2.19	60	23	70	57	20	60	219	
Gardella, Mike	L-L	5-10	200	25	AA	4-5	3.82	53	11	78	70	55	76	255	
Guetterman, Lee	L-L	6-8	230	33	New York	3-4	3.68	64	6	88	91	25	35	268	
Habyan, John	R-R	6-2	191	28	New York	4-2	2.30	66	2	90	73	20	70	225	
Johnson, Jeff	R-L	6-3	206	25	AAA	4-0	2.61	10	0	62	58	25	40	252	
				New York	6-11	5.95	23	0	127	156	33	62	305		
Kamieniecki, Scott	R-R	6-0	197	28	AAA	6-3	2.36	11	0	76	61	20	58	218	
				New York	4-4	3.90	9	0	55	54	22	34	256		
Leary, Tim	R-R	6-3	218	33	New York	4-10	6.49	28	0	121	150	57	83	312	
Martel, Ed	R-R	6-1	190	23	AA	13-6	2.81	25	0	163	129	56	141	217	
Mills, Alan	R-R	6-1	190	25	AAA	7-5	4.43	38	8	114	109	75	77	253	
				New York	1-1	4.41	6	0	16	16	8	11	254		
Monteleone, Rich	R-R	6-2	236	29	AAA	1-3	2.12	32	17	47	36	7	54	211	
				New York	3-1	3.64	26	0	47	42	19	34	236		
Munoz, Roberto	R-R	6-7	210	24	A-AAA	5-9	2.92	20	0	111	99	43	55	241	
Perez, Melido	R-R	6-4	180	26	Chicago (AL)	8-7	3.12	49	1	136	111	52	128	224	
Perez, Pascual	R-R	6-3	184	34	New York	2-4	3.18	14	0	74	68	24	21	250	
Sanderson, Scott	R-R	6-5	192	35	New York	16-10	3.81	34	0	208	200	29	130	252	
Smith, Willie	R-R	6-6	240	24	AA	7-7	4.15	21	0	108	99	72	104	245	
Springer, Russ	R-R	6-4	195	23	A-AA	6-9	3.34	27	0	167	127	68	154	209	
Stanford, Larry	R-R	6-1	193	24	AA	2-3	1.89	52	24	62	41	36	61	191	
Taylor, Wade	R-R	6-1	185	26	AAA	4-1	3.54	9	0	61	59	22	36	259	
				New York	7-12	6.27	23	0	116	144	53	72	314		
CATCHERS															
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Ausmus, Brad	R-R	5-11	185	22	A-AA	.285	.355	459	64	131	23	5	3	59	31
Leyritz, Jim	R-R	6-0	190	28	AAA	.267	.370	270	50	72	24	1	11	48	1
				New York	.182	.300	77	8	14	3	0	0	4	0	
CATCHERS															
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Nokes, Matt	L-R	6-1	198	28	New York	.268	.308	456	52	122	20	0	24	77	3
Ramos, John	R-R	6-0	190	26	AAA	.308	.393	377	52	116	18	3	10	63	1
				New York	.308	.310	26	4	8	1	0	0	3	0	
INFELDERS															
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Espinoza, Alvaro	R-R	6-0	190	30	New York	.256	.282	480	51	123	23	2	5	33	4
Gallego, Mike	R-R	5-8	160	31	Oakland	.247	.343	482	67	119	15	4	12	49	6
Hayes, Charlie	R-R	6-0	210	26	Philadelphia	.230	.257	460	34	106	23	1	12	53	3
Kelly, Pat	R-R	6-0	180	24	AAA	.336	.384	116	27	39	9	2	3	19	8
				New York	.242	.288	298	35	72	12	4	3	23	12	
Maas, Kevin	L-L	6-3	209	26	New York	.220	.333	509	69	110	14	1	23	63	5
Mattingly, Don	L-L	6-0	192	31	New York	.288	.339	587	64	169	35	0	9	68	2
Silvestri, Dave	R-R	6-0	180	24	AA	.262	.366	512	97	134	31	8	19	83	20
Snow, J.T.	S-L	6-2	202	24	AA	.279	.364	477	78	133	33	3	13	76	5
Velarde, Randy	R-R	6-0	190	29	New York	.245	.322	184	19	45	11	1	1	15	3
OUTFIELDERS															
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Barfield, Jesse	R-R	6-1	201	32	New York	.225	.312	284	37	64	12	0	17	48	1
Hall, Mel	L-L	6-1	214	31	New York	.285	.321	492	67	140	23	2	19	80	0
Humphreys, Mike	R-R	6-0	185	24	AAA	.283	.377	413	71	117	23	5	9	53	34
				New York	.200	.347	40	9	8	0	0	0	0	3	2
Kelly, Roberto	R-R	6-2	192	27	New York	.267	.333	486	68	130	22	2	20	69	32
Meulens, Hensley	R-R	6-3	212	24	New York	.222	.276	288	37	64	8	1	6	29	3
Tartabull, Danny	R-R	6-1	205	29	Kansas City	.316	.397	484	78	153	35	3	31	100	6
Williams, Bernie	S-R	6-2	196	23	AAA	.294	.372	306	52	90	14	6	8	37	9
				New York	.238	.336	320	43	76	19	4	3	34	10	
Williams, Gerald	R-R	6-2	190	25	AA-AAA	.286	.325	373	48	101	23	3	7	59	27

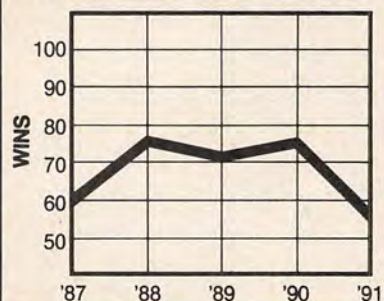
Coaches — Clete Boyer; Tony Cloninger; Mark Connor; Frank Howard; Monk Meyer; Ed Napoleon

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CLEVELAND INDIANS

1991 RECORD: 57-105 MANAGER: MIKE HARGROVE STADIUM: CLEVELAND (74,483)

5-YEAR SCAN



At the winter meetings last December, John Hart was stopped in a hotel lobby by a rival general manager. "I see you dumped Jesse Orosco on the Brewers," said the other GM. "He wasn't even making the average salary. Why him? Why not Eric King or Chris James? They're making the millions."

"We're not through," replied Hart, Cleveland's GM. "Wait until Christmas."

By Christmas, King, James and Doug Jones were released, and Hart had reduced Cleveland's payroll to less than what Roger Clemens and Frank Viola will make from the Red Sox this season. Since the start of the 1991 season, Hart also had unloaded veterans Tom Candiotti, Greg Swindell, Keith Hernandez, Mitch Webster and Brook Jacoby. The Indians retained only four players who were eligible for salary arbitration. "My job was to get a young team with a top young player at every position as quickly as possible," Hart says. "I think we've done that, and these kids can grow together and be contenders together. Now all we need is to add pitching."

The mandate from club owners Richard and David Jacobs was clear: Build for 1994, when the Tribe escapes Municipal Stadium for a new ballpark in rejuvenated downtown Cleveland. With his final deal at the winter meetings — catcher Eddie Taubensee to Houston for centerfielder Kenny Lofton — Hart completed Cleveland's lineup. The Indians will open the season with no players making a million dollars or born before 1959, the last time Cleveland contended for the pennant.

After last season's disastrous experiment to build around speedy Alex Cole, the Indians have shifted emphasis to multi-dimensional athletes such as Lofton, Mark Lewis, Jim Thome and Sandy Alomar Jr. "This year we'll play the kids and let them develop as a team," Hart says. "I think they may come faster than anyone might imagine."

PITCHING Without an ace or a proven closer, the Indians are bound to have one of the worst staffs in the major leagues. The pro-



Charles Nagy

jected rotation was 26-45 last season, with Dennis Cook posting the only winning record. He was 1-0 with the Dodgers working primarily as a reliever. The bullpen is a mess. Rick Adair, who replaces Mark Wiley as pitching coach, faces the challenge of maintaining a positive approach to a desperate situation.

STARTING PITCHING With Greg Swindell gone to Cincinnati, righthander Charles Nagy assumes the role of No. 1 starter. It's a tall order for the 24-year-old Nagy, who was a 15-game loser in 1991 and has less than two seasons of major league experience.

Nagy has power stuff, though he needs to be more assertive with his 88-mph sinker and hard slider. He has a split-finger pitch but needs to improve it to be more effective against lefthanded batters, who hit him at a .289 clip

last season. Nagy won 10 games despite meager support of 3.4 runs per nine innings. Among AL starters, only Kirk McCaskill and Alex Fernandez received less backing. Scouts say Nagy should develop into a No. 2 or 3 starter, capable of pitching 200 innings and winning 15 to 18 games annually. His most glaring weakness is an inability to hold runners. Opponents stole 23 bases in 30 attempts when he was on the mound last season.

If Indians scouting director Mickey White is an astute talent judge, Nagy may not be the No. 1 starter for long. White, who worked for the Reds when they drafted Jack Armstrong and Scott Scudder, believes both pitchers have ace-like qualities. The Indians are certain to exhibit more patience with Armstrong and Scudder than Lou Piniella did in Cincinnati.

Armstrong is a fallen star. The National League starter in the 1990 All-Star Game, he was strutting so proudly that the media had to go through his agent to get an interview. He since has an 8-19 record and less swagger. The Indians hope that by giving him the ball every fifth day, Armstrong will curb his stubbornness and learn how to pitch again. He throws 92 mph and has a hard curve. His fastball, though, is straight, and he lacks command of his curve and change-up. A fine athlete, Armstrong fields his position well.

Scudder, 24, lacks confidence in his power repertoire and has shown little consistency with an off-speed pitch. He walked 56 batters in 101 innings last season, when Piniella shuttled him in and out of the rotation. Scudder throws a low-90s fastball that has exceptional movement when he keeps it down, and his slider has a hard break. Curiously, his stuff is better from the stretch than his windup.

Dave Otto, an Oakland castoff, found a home last season with the Indians. The 6-7 lefthander won just twice, but usually kept his team in the game for six or seven innings. Otto, though, needs to prove that his stuff — fastball, forkball, sweeping curve — is good enough over the long haul. A bit mechanical on the mound, he falls out of sync easily, then nibbles instead of remaining aggressive.

Lefthander Dennis Cook has an edge on other candidates for the fifth spot in the rotation. Working for his fourth organization in four years, Cook has good stuff but little concept of how to use it. His sinker and overhand curve are quality pitches, but his short-arm delivery causes him problems. Cook has stretches in which he bounces too many pitches or leaves too many hanging over the plate.

Lefthander Jeff Mutis could win a spot with a strong showing in spring training. A sinker/slider pitcher, he dominated Double-A hitters last season, recording a 1.80 ERA, seven complete games and four shutouts, but failed a brief trial with the varsity.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

RELIEF PITCHING The Indians, briefly relaxing their tight fiscal policy, tried to sign free-agent reliever Alejandro Pena last December, a move John Hart felt would stabilize the bullpen and ease pressure on the starters. However, Pena re-signed with Atlanta. For lack of a better option, the Tribe will hand the ball to righthander Steve Olin in save situations. Former closer Doug Jones signed with Houston in January rather than accept a minor league contract from the Indians.

While Olin saved 17 games after being recalled from Triple-A last July, he hardly is a proven commodity. First batters pounded Olin at a .375 clip, and lefties solved him for a .330 average. Delivering from an angle between sidearm and submarine, he throws a flat slider and a fastball with sinking action. Once a nibbler, Olin had no qualms about working inside on righthanded batters after joining the Indians last season. He is best suited as a setup man.

Lefthanders Derek Lilliquist, Kevin Wickander and Eric Bell will compete for middle and setup roles. Lilliquist, claimed off waivers from San Diego, is a breaking-ball artist with a career 4.74 ERA. He was working on a screwball in Puerto Rico the past winter. Wickander missed parts of the past two seasons, recovering from a broken left elbow in 1990, and undergoing treatment for alcoholism in '91. He has a good slider and a deceptive delivery. Bell, a 10-game winner as a 1987 rookie with Baltimore, had "Tommy John" surgery on his left elbow in '88 and since has been on the comeback trail. He lacks command of his off-speed junk and is prone to gopher balls.

Righthander Rod Nichols can spot start or work in long relief. He had an 0-8 record and 3.91 ERA last season before earning a victory to break a 13-game losing streak dating to 1989. A favorite of scouts because he works so quickly, Nichols is a short-armed and has a big leg kick, which affords him a measure of deception. He throws an 86-mph fastball and has a big, sloppy curve. His control and ability to change speeds were better in '91 than in previous seasons. **GRADE (max. 10): 3.5**

CATCHING Cleveland began its rebuilding campaign when it acquired catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. and infielder Carlos Baerga in a December 1989 deal that sent Joe Carter to San Diego. Alomar was the 1990 AL Rookie of the Year, but missed 111 games last season because of shoulder, finger and hip injuries. He had only seven RBIs and stopped just nine of 30 runners who tried to steal against him. It was apparent when he arrived for spring training last year that Alomar had done little, if any, conditioning work over the winter.

Alomar is agile behind the plate, has huge, soft hands, and unloads a quick, strong throw. He has good rapport with pitchers, who respect his ability to call a game. Though he has a long, looping swing, Alomar was able to make enough adjustments in 1990 to bat .290 with 66 RBIs. The No. 8 batter in Cleveland's order, he has the strength to hit 20 home runs, especially with Municipal Stadium's fences closer to home plate this season.

Backup Joel Skinner might have the strongest catcher's arm in the league. He has sure hands and is adept at calling a game. If Skinner could hit a lick, he would be an All-Star. He

has a .228 average and 17 home runs in nine major league seasons.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

INFIELD The projected infield of Reggie Jefferson, Carlos Baerga, Mark Lewis and Jim Thome hit 15 major league home runs last season, three more than Mike Gallego. Baerga, 23, is the veteran of the group. Jefferson, 23, Lewis, 22, and Thome, 21, are entering their first full big league seasons.

Though Baerga might not look like a ballplayer, he is. He plays too deep at second base on occasion and turns routine plays into close calls. But Baerga doesn't lack for hustle, makes the double-play pivot better than his predecessor, Jerry Browne, and provides more offense than many middle infielders. A switch-hitter, he has a quick, aggressive stroke and drives the ball from both sides. As he settles in, Baerga should be a consistent .290-17-80 guy. He is a below-average runner.

Cleveland finished last in the AL in fielding



Sandy Alomar Jr.

last season, partly because Baerga and Lewis were learning new positions. Baerga, who had been groomed in the minors as a third baseman, played 89 games at third, 75 at second. Lewis, a natural shortstop, played 50 games at second, 36 at short. Lewis, the second player selected in the June 1988 draft, has fluid actions, a quick, compact throwing motion and good hands. He lacks range, but should be able to get by once he learns hitters' tendencies. Lewis is a high-ball hitter, prone to lifting popups and routine fly balls. He has good bat speed, but isn't likely to develop the Alan Trammell-like power that scouts once projected for him.

In a diplomatic swap of first basemen, the Indians traded Tim Costo to Cincinnati last June for Jefferson, the deal arranged after the Reds botched a waiver procedure that would have made Jefferson a free agent. A switch-hitter, Jefferson is more effective from the left side. He has power potential, though his long swing might be too cumbersome to handle a good major league fastball. He's a .194 hitter in 108 major league at-bats, but batted .308 in Triple-A last season. "Give him 500 at-bats and you'll see production," says Indians manager Mike Hargrove. Jefferson, Baerga and Mark Whiten give the Indians switch-hitting versatility in the middle of the order. Defensively, Jefferson is a liability, tall and gangly with restricted range and poor hands. Back problems have retarded his development.

Thome gets first crack at third base. A 1989 draft pick out of an Illinois junior college, he advanced to the major leagues in less than three years, adjusting quickly to pitching at each level. "He is a natural hitter with what look like extraordinary instincts," says a scout. The lefthanded-hitting Thome has a line-drive stroke and occasional home run power. He was 1 for 20 against lefthanded pitching after joining the Indians last season. Thome has the work ethic and dedication to become an adequate third baseman. He has a strong arm and charges well, but his lateral range is limited.

Former starting shortstop Felix Fermin has no power and is a poor baserunner, but is a valuable reserve nonetheless. He is adept at moving along runners and a superb defender. Fermin flows to the ball, has sure hands and a strong arm.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

OUTFIELD Among the dumb ideas in baseball last year, none drew more laughs than the Indians' brainstorm of building an offense around Alex Cole. By midseason, Cole was 9 for 21 in stolen base attempts, making the weakest .292 contact anyone could remember, playing defense like a Bad News Bear, and exhibiting virtually no instincts for the game. This is a man who once swung and missed at 13 consecutive batting-practice pitches. While Cole is still around, available to play Willie Mays Hayes if there is a sequel to the movie "Major League," the new center-fielder is Kenny Lofton, who arrives from Houston with a reputation as the fastest man in baseball.

Lofton, a former point guard at the University of Arizona, hit .308, stole 40 bases and led professional baseball with 17 triples last season while playing at Triple-A Tucson. A lefthanded hitter, he hangs in against southpaws and can bunt. While Lofton can drive the ball into the gaps, he lacks the strength to handle good fastballs in his kitchen and is prone to striking out. Scouts question his ability to make adjustments at the plate, though it should be noted that Lofton has scant experience, having played little baseball before signing in June 1988. In center, he is fast enough to outrun most of his mistakes, but has below-average arm strength.

Albert Belle's development was interrupted twice last season. He threw a ball at a heckler in the stands and was suspended in May, then loafed to first base on a grounder and was sent to the minors in June. He played just 123 games, yet led the Indians in home runs (28), RBIs (95) and slugging percentage (.540). A first-pitch, pull hitter, Belle punishes fastballs up in the strike zone, but is vulnerable to breaking stuff away. He has to hit to play, because he has nothing to offer on the bases or in left field. Belle is a stiff fielder who lacks concentration and has shown little desire to improve. Many of his at-bats will come as the designated hitter.

Rightfielder Mark Whiten has the strongest outfield arm in the major leagues, but isn't a premier defensive player. He doesn't have an instinctive jump, retreats for balls uncertainly and lacks lateral speed. Whiten last season had 13 assists, including six on outs at

home plate. A switch-hitter, he has a better chance from his natural right side. He jumps at the ball from the left side and is vulnerable inside. The 6-3, 215-pound Whiten should hit with more power as he gains experience.

Glenallen Hill, Mike Aldrete and Cole are the backups. Hill, who has a plus arm and good speed, can play center if Lofton struggles, and left when Belle is the DH. At the plate, Hill is an all-or-nothing proposition, capable of a tape-measure home run or a strikeout. Aldrete, with his fourth organization in five years, lacks power and speed, but has value as a lefthanded pinch-hitter.

DESIGNATED HITTER The Indians will take a novel approach at the DH spot, splitting the at-bats between speedy Alex Cole, who will bat second in the order behind Kenny Lofton, and cleanup hitter Albert Belle. Cole has limited bat speed, but makes slap contact. He prefers fastballs up. Belle is the prototypical DH, a one-dimensional slugger capable of 35 home runs a year.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

MANAGEMENT It's too early to get a reading on manager Mike Hargrove. He's had the job for only 85 games, and seemingly has had about that many variations of his roster. Hargrove is young, willing to listen and learn, and has a good track record in the minor leagues. Some question his ability to handle a pitching staff.

John Hart is a fine talent evaluator, but may be in over his head as general manager. Intrusive last season to the point of dictating lineups to Hargrove, Hart needs to calm down and stop making roster moves every time a losing streak reaches two games. Owners Richard and David Jacobs are regarded as cheapskates. To their credit, they have committed more money to player development and don't meddle in day-to-day club operations.

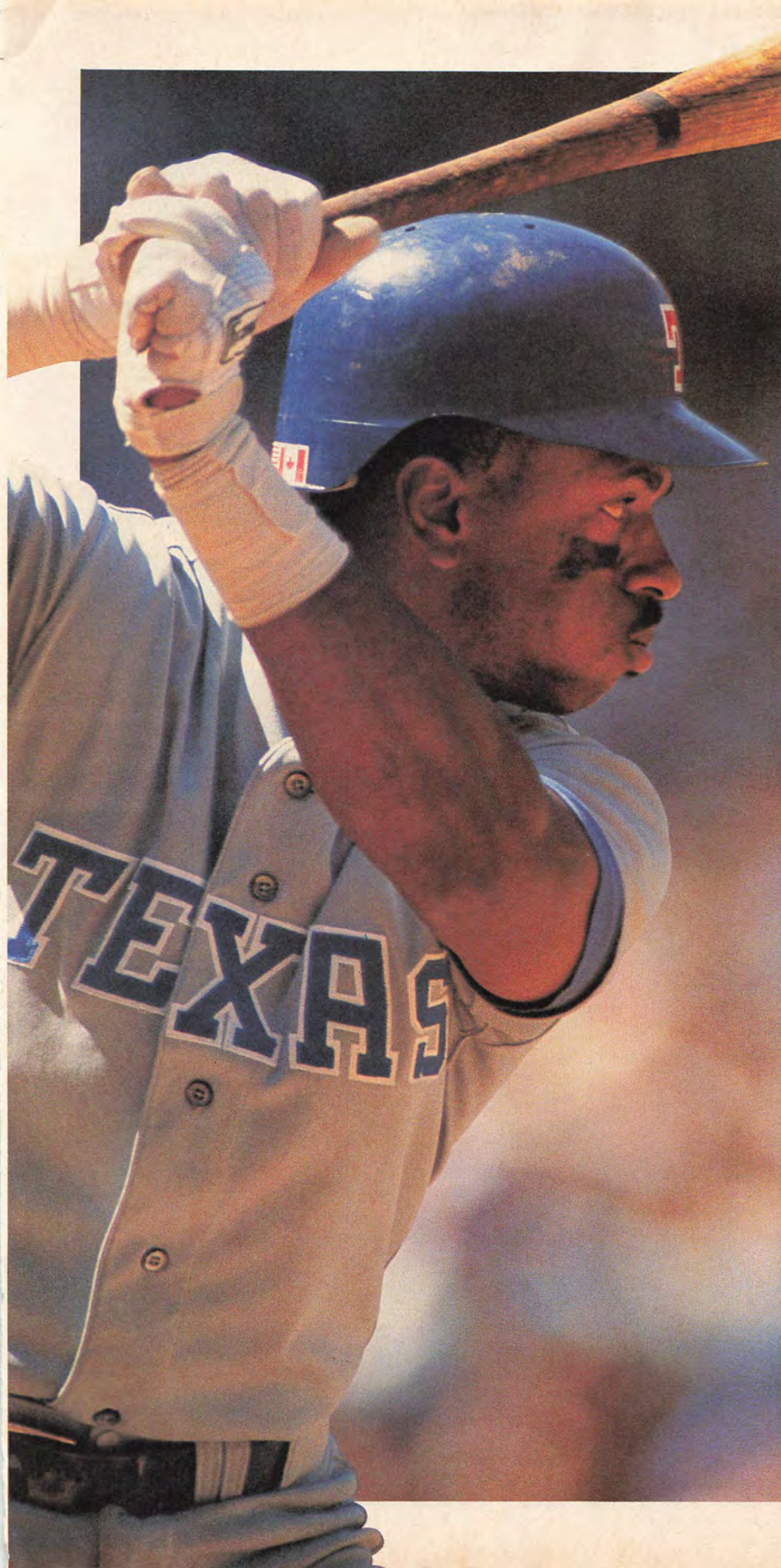
GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

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PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	
Armstrong, Jack	R-R	6-5	215	27	AAA Cincinnati	2-0	2.65	6	0	37	31	5	23	233	
					Cincinnati	7-13	5.48	27	0	140	158	54	93	293	
Bell, Eric	L-L	6-0	165	28	AAA-AA Cleveland	11-6	2.74	22	0	119	105	48	100	233	
					Cleveland	4-0	0.50	10	0	18	5	5	7	091	
Cook, Dennis	L-L	6-3	185	29	AA-AAA Los Angeles	8-6	3.23	21	0	142	116	42	129	225	
					Los Angeles	1-0	0.51	20	0	18	12	7	8	203	
Egloff, Bruce	R-R	6-2	215	26	AAA Cleveland	1-2	3.38	15	2	29	31	13	17	284	
					Cleveland	0-0	4.76	6	0	6	8	4	8	333	
Hillgas, Shawn	R-R	6-2	223	27	Cleveland	3-4	4.34	51	7	83	67	46	66	223	
Lillquist, Derek	L-L	6-0	214	26	AAA San Diego	4-6	5.38	33	2	105	142	66	89	320	
					San Diego	0-2	8.79	6	0	14	25	4	7	379	
Mutis, Jeff	L-L	6-2	185	25	AA Cleveland	11-5	1.80	25	0	170	138	51	89	225	
					Cleveland	0-3	11.68	3	0	12	23	7	6	397	
Nagy, Charles	L-R	6-3	200	24	Cleveland	10-15	4.13	33	0	211	228	66	109	275	
Nichols, Rod	R-R	6-2	190	27	Cleveland	2-11	3.54	31	1	137	145	30	75	273	
Olin, Steve	R-R	6-2	190	26	AAA Cleveland	3-2	4.47	22	6	44	45	10	36	266	
					Cleveland	3-6	3.36	48	17	56	61	23	38	274	
Otto, Dave	L-L	6-7	210	27	AAA Cleveland	5-6	4.75	17	0	95	110	43	62	299	
					Cleveland	2-8	4.23	18	0	100	108	27	47	283	
Scudder, Scott	R-R	6-2	185	24	Cincinnati	6-9	4.35	27	1	101	91	56	51	246	
Shaw, Jeff	R-R	6-2	185	25	AAA Cleveland	6-3	4.64	12	0	76	77	25	55	258	
					Cleveland	0-5	3.36	29	1	72	72	27	31	262	
Wickander, Kevin	L-L	6-2	202	27	AA-AAA Cleveland	2-2	3.41	32	2	37	33	29	34	250	
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Alomar Jr., Sandy	R-R	6-5	215	25	Cleveland	.217	.264	184	10	40	9	0	0	7	0
Skinner, Joel	R-R	6-4	204	31	Cleveland	.243	.279	284	23	69	14	0	1	24	0
INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Baerga, Carlos	S-R	5-11	165	23	Cleveland	.288	.346	593	80	171	28	2	11	69	3
Browne, Jerry	S-R	5-10	170	26	Cleveland	.228	.292	290	28	66	5	2	1	29	2

INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Fermin, Felix	R-R	5-11	170	28	AAA Cleveland	.250	.250	8	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
					Cleveland	.262	.307	424	30	111	13	2	0	31	5
Jefferson, Reggie	S-L	6-4	210	23	AA-AAA Cincinnati	.305	.348	262	45	80	14	1	6	45	3
					Cincinnati	.143	.250	7	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Lewis, Mark	R-R	6-1	190	22	AAA Cleveland	.198	.219	101	10	20	3	0	2	12	0
					AAA Cleveland	.279	.335	179	29	50	10	3	2	31	2
Martinez, Carlos	R-R	6-5	175	26	AA Cleveland	.264	.293	314	29	83	15	1	0	30	2
					AA Cleveland	.329	.371	295	48	77	22	2	11	73	11
Perezchica, Tony	R-R	5-11	165	25	AAA San Francisco	.284	.310	257	22	73	14	0	5	30	3
					San Francisco	.229	.260	48	2	11	4	1	0	3	0
					Cleveland	.364	.440	22	4	8	2	0	0	0	0
Thome, Jim	L-R	6-3	200	21	AA-AAA Cleveland	.319	.395	445	67	142	27	5	7	73	8
					Cleveland	.255	.298	98	7	25	4	2	1	9	1
OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Aldrete, Mike	L-L	5-11	185	31	AAA San Diego	.289	.357	76	4	22	5	0	0	8	0
					San Diego	.000	.167	15	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Belle, Albert	R-R	6-2	200	25	AAA Cleveland	.262	.380	183	22	48	6	1	1	19	1
					Cleveland	.328	.348	61	9	20	3	2	2	16	1
					Cleveland	.282	.323	461	60	130	31	2	28	95	3
Cole, Alex	L-L	6-2	185	26	Cleveland	.295	.386	387	58	114	17	3	0	21	27
Hill, Glenallen	R-R	6-2	210	27	Toronto Cleveland	.253	.296	99	14	25	5	2	3	11	4
					Cleveland	.262	.345	122	15	32	3	0	5	14	4
Lofton, Kenny	L-L	6-0	180	24	AAA Houston	.308	.367	545	93	168	19	17	2	50	40
					Houston	.203	.253	74	9	15	1	0	0	0	2
Whiten, Mark	S-R	6-3	215	25	Toronto Cleveland	.221	.274	149	12	33	4	3	2	19	0
					Cleveland	.256	.310	258	34	66	14	4	7	26	4

Coaches — Rick Adair; Ken Boiek; Dom Chitt; Ron Clark; Jose Morales; Dave Nelson; Jeff Newman



AL WEST

1991 STANDINGS

	W-L	PCT	GB
Minnesota	95-67	.586	—
Chicago	87-75	.537	8
Texas	85-77	.525	10
Oakland	84-78	.519	11
Seattle	83-79	.512	12
Kansas City	82-80	.506	13
California	81-81	.500	14

5-YEAR SCAN

	W-L	PCT	AVG. DIV. FINISH
Oakland	471-339	.581	2.0
Minnesota	425-385	.525	3.2
Kansas City	416-392	.515	3.8
California	402-408	.496	4.8
Chicago	398-410	.493	4.2
Texas	396-413	.489	4.4
Seattle	379-430	.468	5.4

1992

1. Chicago
2. Oakland
3. Texas
4. Minnesota
5. Seattle
6. Kansas City
7. California

Julio Franco, Texas

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

1991 RECORD: 87-75 MANAGER: GENE LAMONT STADIUM: COMISKEY PARK (44,702)

5-YEAR SCAN



Playing in the Second City is one thing, but it's no excuse for the second-place rut the White Sox have fallen into the past two seasons.

Ownership isn't about to look the other way. After Chicago finished second to Oakland in 1990, general manager Larry Himes, who had orchestrated the White Sox's four-year resurrection from laughingstock to contender, was fired. After Chicago finished second to Minnesota in 1991, manager Jeff Torborg wasn't fired, but certainly wasn't deterred when the New York Mets came calling.

Now it's second-year GM Ron Schueler and first-year manager Gene Lamont who face the challenges of producing a championship — and doing it immediately.

Last season Chicago remained a contender in the American League West into early August. Lefty Wilson Alvarez made his team debut on the 11th, against Baltimore, and became the eighth-youngest pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter. Chicago improved to a season-best 65-45 and pulled within a game of the division lead.

But quicker than the wind whips off Lake Michigan, the White Sox blew any chance of taking part in the pennant race. They lost 15 of their next 17 games — eight by one run. The rotation unraveled, going 1-12 with a 6.34 ERA, and four leads handed to the bullpen went up in smoke. This was the same staff most thought would be the strength of the team.

Next thing Torborg knew he was an outsider. The rah-rah approach that garnered commendations the year before suddenly became a target for front office snipers. It was high time to get out of town, and Torborg knew it. He signed on with the Mets in October.

Gene Lamont, be warned. Such is life in the Second City, with a team that won't be content to play second fiddle again.

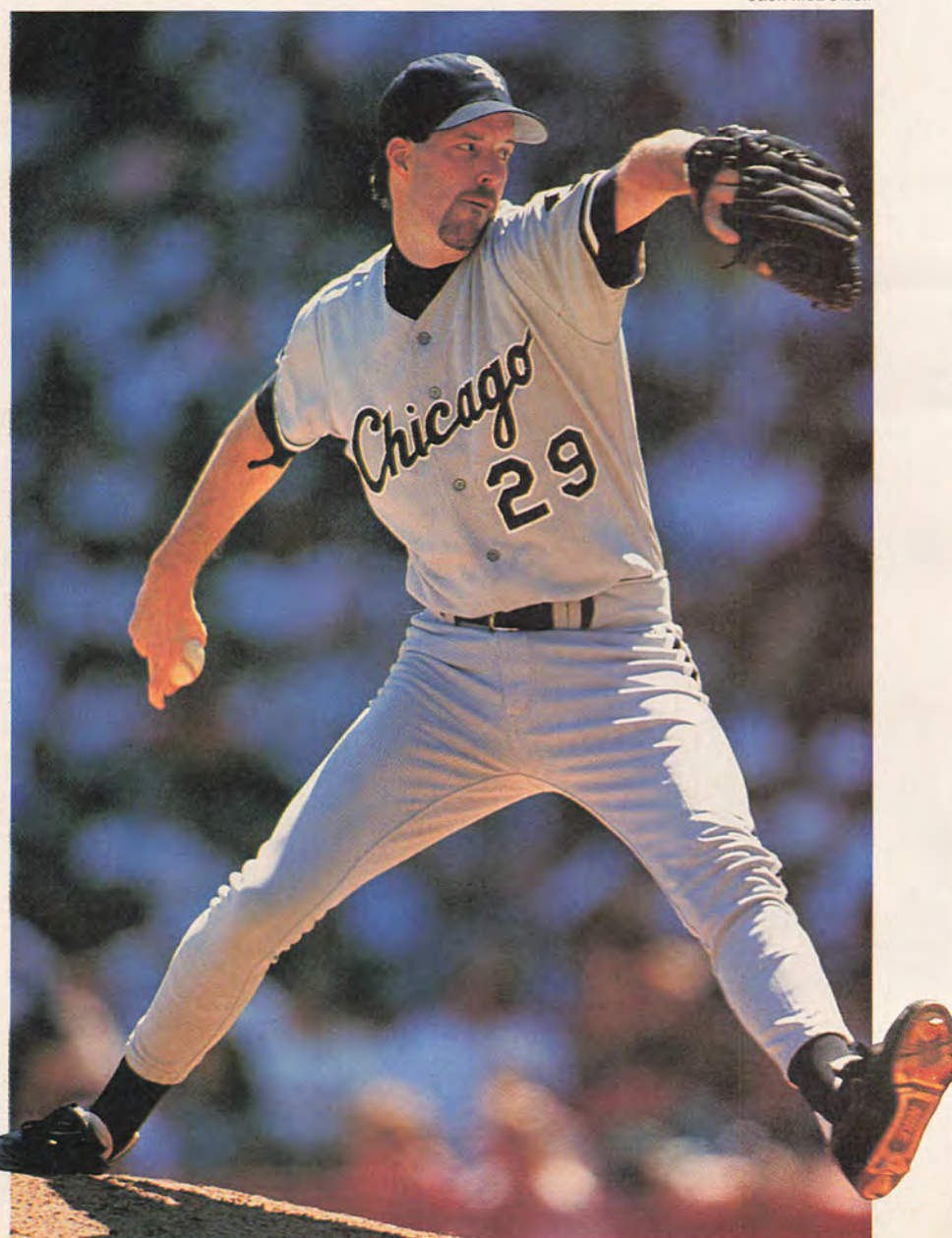
PITCHING New pitching coach Jackie Brown inherits a staff that led the AL last season in complete games (28), was second in opponents' batting average (.239) and tied with Seattle for fourth in ERA (3.79). On the flip side, White Sox pitchers were 11th in walks and gave up more home runs (154) than every other staff except Oakland's.

Ron Schueler and Co. like their contingent of live, young arms and turn a deaf ear to

trade talk. The Sox went into the offseason intent on adding a veteran starter and signed Kirk McCaskill as a free agent.

STARTING PITCHING "The White Sox will rise or fall with Jack McDowell," says a scout. "He takes it to the next level and they can win it (the AL West)." Last year McDowell established himself as a legitimate No.

Jack McDowell



1 starter. He led the AL in complete games (15), was second in innings (254), fourth in strikeouts (191) and tied for fifth in opponents' batting average (.228). His 17 victories were the most by a Sox pitcher since Britt Burns' 18 in 1985.

Black Jack has the requisite swagger and mean streak. All arms and legs, he attacks hitters with a low-90s fastball and power forkball ("split-curve"), and has no compunction about working inside. He fields his position well and has an excellent pickoff move. Scouts, however, have concerns about McDowell: 1) Can his slight frame (6-5, 180 pounds) continue to absorb a heavy workload? 2) Will his musical interests interfere with his progress as a pitcher?

Young Alex Fernandez is learning his craft in the big leagues. Based on his work last September (3-1, 2.25 ERA in 6 starts), the lessons are taking hold. Control problems hindered Fernandez early last season. After his first 14 appearances, he was 2-7 with a 6.40 ERA and averaging 5.5 walks per nine innings. In his final 20 games, the stocky righthander cut his free passes to 3.3 and went 7-6, 3.38. Fernandez has first-rate stuff, including a 90-mph heater he rides up and in, and a hard curve he will throw anywhere in the count. Scouts love his makeup.

Veteran knuckleballer Charlie Hough has 195 victories (fifth among active pitchers), but hasn't had a winning season since 1987 or an ERA under 4.00 in three years. Hough still can keep his club in games and eat up innings. Last season he pitched at least seven innings 19 times, and the Sox won 18 of his 29 starts. In recent years, Hough has had increasing difficulty controlling his floater. The 44-year-old righthander averaged 4.2 walks per nine innings in '91.

Kirk McCaskill lost a major league-leading 19 games for California last season, but in 14 the Angels scored two or fewer runs, including four shutouts. McCaskill, bothered by elbow problems the past several years, spots his fastball and cuts it on occasion for movement. His out pitch is a big-breaking curve. To be successful, McCaskill, 31, needs to stay off the plate and work inside. Opponents hit .326 against him last season when putting his first pitch into play.

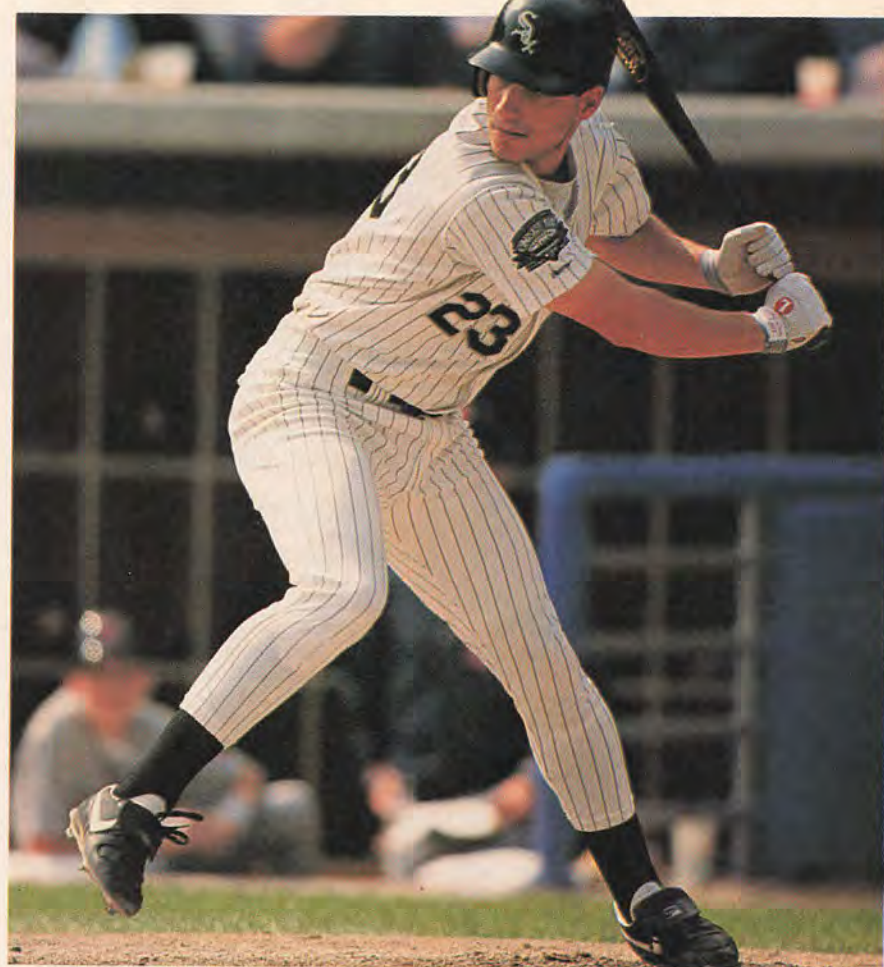
Lefties Wilson Alvarez and Greg Hibbard are in competition for the final spot in the rotation. Alvarez, who has a compact motion and three quality pitches, can be tough when he stays within himself. But, at 22, he tends to tip his pitches and needs constant emotional reinforcement.

Hibbard had a strong finish last season (3-1, 2.15 ERA), but his stuff is short. He depends on deception and needs to keep the ball down to be effective. His change-up is his best pitch, his competitiveness his biggest asset.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

RELIEF PITCHING Need proof of the meaningless impact ERA has on a bullpen? The Sox had the lowest bullpen ERA in the majors last year (2.85), yet blew 24 saves, tying Oakland for the AL high. The Sox pen saved fewer games (40) than Bobby Thigpen locked up by himself in '90 when he set a major league record with 57.

Thigpen managed 30 saves last season. Although the Sox rallied to win 28 times in their last at-bat, which limited his chances, he blew nine opportunities. "He seemed out of whack a lot," said a scout. "When he rushes his deliv-



Robin Ventura

ery, he leaves balls up." Not only did Thigpen serve up some fat pitches, he walked too many hitters (4.9 per nine innings).

While Thigpen relies on a hard, biting slider as his out pitch, lefthander Scott Radinsky smokes hitters with blazing heat. Tough for hitters to pick up, Radinsky makes life unbearable for lefties (.205 in '91) with his low three-quarters delivery. Last season he discovered the joys of throwing strikes (2.9 walks per nine innings), which translated into a team-leading 2.02 ERA (1.58 over his final 53 appearances). Radinsky, who had eight saves, appears ready to assume a larger late-inning role. Flaws? His sharp slider flattens out at times.

Herky-jerky righthander Donn Pall, who can pitch in setup and middle relief, throws a sinker and two different splitters for strikes. Last season Pall permitted only 13 of 48 (27 percent) inherited runners to score and was unscored upon in 39 of 51 appearances. His 2.41 ERA was a career best.

Lefthander Ken Patterson fits best in a long relief capacity. He has a plus fastball that he fades to righthanders, and a big slurve he has trouble getting over. Patterson held opponents to a .214 average last season, and stranded 34 of 47 (72 percent) inherited runners. He had a 2.17 ERA over his final 38 appearances.

Righthanders Roberto Hernandez, Brian Drahman and Steve Wapnick are candidates to fill out the pen. Hernandez underwent surgery last June to bypass a blood clot in his pitching shoulder and made his major league debut in September. He has a dynamic sinking fastball. Drahman and Wapnick are sinker/slider types.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

CATCHING The transition has begun behind the plate. Carlton Fisk, still pushing his 44-year-old body to the limit, is relinquishing his job to Ron Karkovice — gradually. Fisk started 91 games behind the plate in 1991 and likely will catch 80 to 85 this year. He needs 79 to surpass Bob Boone's all-time record.

Fisk no longer has quick reflexes behind the plate and doesn't receive the ball as easily as he once did. Yet he still has a quick, accurate arm, nailing 37 of 91 runners who tried to steal against him last season. Fisk has retained his short stroke and much of his bat speed. The most prolific power-hitting catcher in history, Fisk belted 18 home runs in his final 334 at-bats last year, after not homering in his first 126 at-bats. Only two AL catchers — Mickey Tettleton and Matt Nokes — had more RBIs.

Karkovice, who missed 43 games last year because of a torn ligament in his left thumb, is one of the best receivers and throwers. Like Fisk, he calls a superb game. A Walt Hriniak disciple with the bat, Karkovice is a decent hitter who can turn on mistakes up in the zone.

Lefty-swinging Matt Merullo is an offensive player. A dead pull hitter, he had two home runs and eight RBIs as a pinch-hitter last season.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

INFIELD Second baseman Steve Sax, acquired from the Yankees in January for pitcher Melido Perez, brings additional offense to an infield that includes Frank Thomas and Robin Ventura.

Sax, an ideal No. 2 hitter, has a compact

stroke and the ability to go with the pitch. Last season he concentrated on pulling the ball more and hit a career-high 10 home runs. Sax led the Yankees in hits (198), runs (85) and doubles (38), and finished second in stolen bases (31). Again affirming his ability to make contact, Sax averaged one strikeout per 17.2 at-bats.

Despite his .286 career average and the protection he gives Tim Lincecum in the order, Sax is a liability with the glove. His ever-diminishing range cost the Yankees untold runs last season, and he's slow on the double-play pivot.

First baseman Thomas is the best offensive player in the major leagues. Extremely disciplined, he has terrific bat speed and power to all fields. Thomas makes all the adjustments, prompting a veteran scout to say, "I have no idea how to pitch him." Last year many teams didn't pitch to Thomas, walking him a league-leading 138 times. The Sox are counting on a healthy Bo Jackson to provide Thomas more protection this season.

Thomas last year finished among AL leaders in on-base percentage (.453, first), slugging (.553, fourth), home runs (32, fifth) and RBIs (109, fifth). He hit .347 with runners in scoring position (fourth) and .376 against lefthanded pitching (second). Thomas, a designated hitter for much of '91, doesn't move or throw well, yet his hands are adequate.

"Ventura made as much progress as anybody in the league last year," said a scout. The 24-year-old third baseman has quick reactions, feet and hands. Many of his 18 errors last year came on errant throws. At the plate, Ventura got away from the strict Hriniaik Doctrine, moving closer and showing increased bat speed. Basically a line-drive hitter, he's quick to turn on the ball middle in and drive it out of the park. Extra-tough in the clutch, Ventura hit .333 with runners in scoring position last year, and set a club record for RBIs (100) at his position.

Effervescent Ozzie Guillen probably would play the White Sox to play. An unconventional shortstop with rare quickness and agility, he is very aggressive charging the ball and throws much better going to his left than right. Carelessness accounts for most of Guillen's errors (21 in '91). A notorious free-swinging, he is a tough bottom-of-the-order out. Guillen

slashes line drives to all fields and is particularly pesky with two outs. As is his custom, Guillen hit righthanders (.300) much better than lefties (.211, 4 extra-base hits) last year.

Little Craig Grebeck is valuable insurance at second, third and short. An ultra-competitive player with surprising strength, Grebeck has a long swing but generates good bat speed. Last season 25 of his 63 hits went for extra bases. Carlton Fisk, Matt Merullo and Dan Pasqua can fill in at first.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

OUTFIELD The Sox would have preferred plugging Danny Tartabull into the No. 5 hole behind Frank Thomas and sending him out to right field every day. Instead they will settle for a platoon of Dan Pasqua and Sammy Sosa.

Pasqua is a superb low-fastball hitter and has power to all fields. To short-circuit his juice, pitchers try to bust him up and in. Last season the lefty-swinging Pasqua had 15 of his 18 home runs and 58 of his career-high 66 RBIs against righthanders. Limited mobility is his principal handicap in the outfield.

Sosa is an exciting player with terrific natural tools, but hasn't made the necessary adjustments at the plate. He has little discipline, pulls off the ball incessantly and is eaten alive by breaking stuff. If he learns to wait and go the opposite way, Sosa would significantly upgrade his .203 average of last year and still hit the long ball. Defensively, he's good from the neck down.

Centerfielder Lance Johnson isn't as fluid as Devon White or Ken Griffey Jr., but can fly to the ball with anyone in the game. He doesn't have much arm, but has worked to improve his throwing mechanics. An unorthodox hitter who wraps the bat around his head, Johnson chops down on the ball and slaps line drives from foul pole to foul pole. He's difficult to walk, yet very tough with two strikes. Johnson tied with Paul Molitor for the AL lead in triples (13) last season and stole 26 bases.

Tim Lincecum, one of the top leadoff hitters for a decade, made a smooth transition last year from the National League. He stole 51 bases and scored 102 runs. While 2-0, 3-1

breaking balls caught him off-balance early, the switch-hitting Raines hit .292 in his final 65 games. He should have a better read on pitchers and their patterns this season.

Two things about Raines surprised scouts last year: 1) He had a .301 career average doing it his way, yet adopted Walt Hriniaik's batting approach; and 2) His defense in left field was better than advertised despite a sub-par throwing arm.

DESIGNATED HITTER The best scenario has Bo Jackson recovering sufficiently from his degenerative hip condition to hit 30 homers and drive in 90 runs. The worst case has him struggling to make it out of spring training. One of the great athletes of the modern era, Jackson ran with such difficulty last September that people cringed watching. Even if sound, Bo is more dangerous than accomplished with the bat. Carlton Fisk and Dan Pasqua provide alternatives.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

MANAGEMENT Gene Lamont had become baseball's managerial bridesmaid, always mentioned and interviewed for jobs, but never getting the nod. His chance finally came last fall, but not before the Sox were rebuffed in efforts to land Jim Leyland, Tony La Russa and Dave Duncan. After eight seasons managing in the minors and six coaching under Leyland, Lamont should be confident in his ability to handle this job. He is advised to get cozy with hitting coach Walt Hriniaik, who has more clout in the organization than the manager.

Ron Schueler was a top lieutenant to Oakland GM Sandy Alderson before joining the Sox in November 1990, and has a reputation for being an astute judge of talent. He has shown a willingness to make major trades, picking up Tim Lincecum in December 1990 and Steve Sax the past winter. But little deals that can make a big difference down the stretch were missing last year.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

T.Q.® 40.0

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA
Alvarez, Wilson	L-L	6-1	175	22	AA	10-6	1.83	23	0	152	109	74	165	200
					Chicago	3-2	3.51	10	0	56	47	29	32	230
Carter, Jeff	R-R	6-3	195	27	AAA	3-7	3.05	41	4	80	78	35	40	262
					Chicago	0-1	5.25	5	0	12	8	5	2	182
Drahman, Brian	R-R	6-3	205	25	AAA	2-3	4.44	22	12	24	21	13	17	236
					Chicago	3-2	3.23	28	0	31	21	13	18	193
Edwards, Wayne	L-L	6-5	185	28	AAA	3-9	6.26	14	0	65	73	37	35	284
					Chicago	0-2	3.86	13	0	23	22	17	12	259
Fernandez, Alex	R-R	6-1	205	22	Chicago	9-13	4.51	34	0	192	186	88	145	259
Garcia, Ramon	R-R	6-2	200	22	AA-AAA	6-2	2.21	10	0	65	51	18	55	213
					Chicago	4-4	5.40	16	0	78	79	31	40	269
Hernandez, Roberto	R-R	6-4	220	27	AA-AAA	6-2	2.82	11	0	67	52	29	65	211
					Chicago	1-0	7.80	9	0	15	18	7	6	290
Hibbard, Greg	L-L	6-0	190	27	AAA	0-0	3.38	1	0	5	4	3	3	250
					Chicago	11-11	4.31	32	0	194	196	57	71	266
Hough, Charlie	R-R	6-2	190	44	Chicago	9-10	4.02	31	0	159	167	94	107	229
Howard, Chris	R-L	6-0	165	26	AA	6-1	2.04	38	9	53	43	16	52	224
McCaskill, Kirk	R-R	6-1	205	31	California	10-19	4.26	30	0	178	193	66	71	283
McDowell, Jack	R-R	6-5	180	26	Chicago	17-10	3.41	35	0	254	212	82	191	228
Pail, Donn	R-R	6-1	183	30	Chicago	7-2	2.41	51	0	72	59	20	40	231
Patterson, Ken	L-L	6-4	210	27	Chicago	3-0	2.83	43	1	64	48	35	32	214
Peschke, Greg	R-R	6-3	180	24	AAA	7-12	4.65	27	0	176	170	62	98	253
Radinsky, Scott	L-L	6-3	190	24	Chicago	5-5	2.02	67	8	71	53	23	49	206
Ruffin, Johnny	R-R	6-3	172	20	A	11-4	3.23	26	0	159	126	62	117	217
Scheid, Rich	L-L	6-3	185	27	AAA	6-7	6.08	47	3	67	65	33	57	257
Thigpen, Bobby	R-R	6-3	195	28	Chicago	7-5	3.49	67	30	70	63	38	47	245
Wapnick, Steve	R-R	6-2	200	26	AAA	6-3	2.76	53	20	72	68	25	58	256
					Chicago	0-1	1.80	6	0	5	2	4	1	111

Coaches — Jackie Brown; Terry Bevington; Walt Hriniaik; Doug Maffei; Joe Nosske; Mike Squires

CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Fisk, Carlton	R-R	6-2	225	44	Chicago	.241	.299	460	42	111	25	0	18	74	1
Karkovics, Ron	R-R	6-1	215	28	Chicago	.246	.310	167	25	41	13	0	5	22	0
Merullo, Matt	L-R	6-2	200	26	AA	.214	.267	28	5	6	0	0	2	3	0
					Chicago	.229	.268	140	8	32	1	0	5	21	0
INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Beltre, Esteban	R-R	5-10	155	24	AAA	.271	.315	347	48	94	11	3	0	30	8
					Chicago	.167	.286	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cora, Joey	S-R	5-8	152	26	A	.200	.200	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
					Chicago	.241	.313	228	37	55	2	3	0	18	11
Grebeck, Craig	R-R	5-7	160	27	Chicago	.281	.386	224	37	63	16	3	6	31	1
Guillen, Ozzie	L-R	5-11	150	28	Chicago	.273	.284	524	52	143	20	3	3	49	21
Martin, Norberto	S-R	5-10	164	25	AAA	.278	.324	338	39	94	9	0	0	20	11
Sax, Steve	R-R	6-0	188	32	New York (AL)	.304	.345	652	85	198	38	2	10	56	31
Thomas, Frank	R-R	6-5	240	23	Chicago	.318	.453	559	104	178	31	2	32	109	1
Ventura, Robin	L-R	6-1	192	24	Chicago	.284	.367	606	92	172	25	1	23	100	2
OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Huff, Mike	R-R	6-1	180	28	Cleveland	.240	.364	146	28	35	6	1	2	10	11
					Chicago	.268	.357	97	14	26	4	1	1	15	3
Johnson, Lance	R-R	6-1	235	29	A-AA	.316	.435	19	3	6	0	0	0	2	2
					Chicago	.225	.333	71	8	16	4	0	3	14	0
Lee, Derek	L-L	5-11	160	28	Chicago	.274	.304	588	72	161	14	13	0	49	26
Newsom, Warren	L-L	5-7	190	27	AAA	.369	.497	111	19	41	12	1	2	19	5
					Chicago	.295	.419	132	20	39	5	0	4	25	2
Pasqua, Dan	L-L	6-0	205	30	Chicago	.259	.358	417	71	108	22	5	18	66	0
Raines, Tim	S-R	5-8	185	32	Chicago	.268	.359	609	102	163	20	6	5	50	51
Sosa, Sammy	R-R	6-0	175	23	AAA	.267	.358	116	19	31	7	2	3	19	9
					Chicago	.203	.240	316	39	64	10	1	10	33	13

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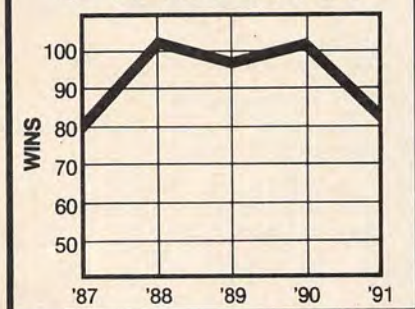
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OAKLAND ATHLETICS

1991 RECORD: 84-78 MANAGER: TONY LA RUSSA STADIUM: OAKLAND COLISEUM (47,313)

5-YEAR SCAN



Maybe it was the four-game dismantling at the hands of the Cincinnati Reds in the 1990 World Series. Maybe it was a case of the odds catching up, and not being able to come up with a little extra to overcome the in-season problems. Maybe the Fat Cat Syndrome finally set in.

Whatever, something happened to the Athletics last season. After claiming three straight American League pennants, invoking talk of a dynasty, the A's returned to earth...with a thud. They have won more games (390) the past four years than any other major league team, but in 1991 couldn't escape second-half mediocrity (40-40), dooming them to fourth place in the AL West. It was the first time since 1985 Oakland finished below third.

Oh, there are excuses. The A's used 46 players (one short of the club record), in part because 16 spent time on the disabled list (also one short of the club record). But the champion A's of old never made excuses, always making do with what they had. It remains to be seen whether this elderly group, whose likely Opening Day starters will average 31 years in age, can mount one last charge.

One shot is all that may remain. The A's 1991 payroll, highest in baseball, neared \$40 million, much to the consternation of management, particularly in light of the uncertainty surrounding the national TV contract which expires after the 1993 season. That doesn't bode well for this club. Eleven A's become eligible for free agency next fall.

PITCHING Much was made of the injuries to Carney Lansford and Walt Weiss, the slump of Mark McGwire and the pouting of Rickey Henderson. Yet the A's of '91 scored 27 more runs than they did the previous season. It was the pitching that came undone. After leading the league in ERA (3.18) in '90, the staff mark soared to 4.57 last year, the largest increase in history for a team coming off a pennant.

The A's used a club-record 23 pitchers, in-

cluding nine rookies who were far from prime-time players, and finished in the bottom half of most AL pitching categories. Only Texas issued more walks, and no other staff in the majors gave up more home runs.

Mike Moore



STARTING PITCHING It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what went wrong with the A's pitching last season. It starts with righthanders Dave Stewart and Bob Welch. The vaunted 1-2 combination went 49-17 with a 2.74 ERA in '90. Last year the pair was 23-24 with a 4.88 ERA, and finished 1-2 in runs allowed in the major leagues.

Stewart had fewer than 20 victories for the first time since '86, and spent time on the disabled list (strained muscle in his left side) for the first time in his career. He took his turn 35 times and led the club in innings (226) for the fifth consecutive year, but his other numbers were grim. Stewart had the highest ERA (5.18) among AL pitchers who qualified for the ERA title, was hit for a .278 average, and issued the second most walks (tied with Mike Moore) in the league. His baserunners per nine innings mark (14.3) was second highest in the AL.

What befell Stewart had more to do with location than velocity. "His stuff was good," said a scout. "He just pitched behind in the count too much and couldn't set up his forkball." Stewart's great competitiveness also worked against him. The more he struggled to command his fastball and slider, the more frustrated and mechanically amiss he became. But bad years come to an end, and you never can count Stewart out. At 35, he's in excellent shape and ready to put last season behind him.

Welch began last year as if he planned on winning his second straight Cy Young Award. He gave up three earned runs or fewer in 10 of his first 11 starts, and two of his first three losses were complete-game efforts. But eventually the wheels came off. Welch lost seven of his last nine decisions, and finished with a career-high 4.58 ERA and his first losing record since '86. He served up 25 home runs, fourth-highest total in the league.

Like Stewart, Welch consistently racks up 200-plus innings (220 in '91). Yet he doesn't have Stewart's confidence or power of concentration. When Welch loses focus, he tends to rush his delivery (getting his body in front of his arm), which not only affects the velocity of his fastball and bite on his curve, but also his control. In the second half, Welch got knocked around mainly because his pitches were up in the strike zone. But don't write any obituaries for him yet. Welch is 73-36 in four seasons with Oakland.

Righthander Mike Moore has better stuff than Stewart or Welch, but getting him to realize it has been a problem. Moore nibbled his way to a 9-7 record and 3.70 ERA in his first 20 starts last year. Then he went on the disabled list because of a strained groin, and returned 17 days later with a more aggressive approach. Moore began challenging with his low-90s fastball and hard slider, setting up batters for his nasty forkball. In his final 13

starts, he went 8-1 with a 1.99 ERA, striking out 73 and walking 35 in 91 innings. Moore finished with a 2.96 ERA (sixth in the AL) and .229 opponents' batting average (tied for eighth).

A's pitching coach Dave Duncan takes pride in salvaging careers. Enter 31-year-old righthander Ron Darling. In his first five full seasons with the Mets, Darling was 72-38 with a 3.37 ERA. In three years hence, he is 29-38 with a 4.02 ERA. Elbow problems, which led to surgery in 1990, contributed to his decline.

Darling, acquired from Montreal last July, pitched better for Oakland than his 3-7, 4.08 ERA suggests. In his seven losses, the A's scored 10 runs and were shut out three times. Darling, no longer a hard thrower, keeps hitters guessing with a mid-80s fastball, a big, slow curve and a forkball he uses as an off-speed pitch. He wants batters to hit his pitch, which invariably is out of the strike zone.

Young righthanders Joe Slusarski and Kirk Dressendorfer are in contention for the fifth spot in the rotation. Slusarski, yo-yoing between Triple-A Tacoma and Oakland last season, made 19 starts for the A's. He has decent stuff, but needs to throw consistent strikes and keep the ball down. Dressendorfer showed a 90-mph heater and good poise in seven early season starts. He eventually submitted to arthroscopic surgery on his shoulder in August.

Phenom Todd Van Poppel, who signed a mega-bucks contract out of high school two years ago, may not be far away. He needs to gain command of a big-breaking curve to keep hitters off his 95-mph fastball.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

RELIEF PITCHING Inconsistencies in the rotation and injuries to key relievers forced Tony La Russa into a major league-record 397 pitching moves last year. Often, the A's skipper was left wanting. Playing chess with guys like Dana Allison, Bruce Walton and Johnny Guzman, the club went from having the league's most effective bullpen in '90 (3.25 ERA) to one of the worst in '91 (4.74, major league high). Age is a major concern. Can the 37-year-olds, Dennis Eckersley and Rick Honeycutt, maintain present standards?

Eckersley was asked to carry a heavier load last season because of the uncertainty in the pen. He made a career-high 67 appearances, and pitched two innings nine times — equal his total for the previous two years. Although he had 43 saves and averaged 1.1 strikeouts an inning, Eckersley proved to be mortal. He blew eight save opportunities and surrendered 11 home runs in 76 innings.

Eck still has the swagger and impeccable control (16 walks the past three seasons), but his slider flattened out some last year. What's more, many hitters began taking advantage of his excellent first-pitch strike ratio, going after him early in the count. Others tried to disrupt his fast-paced rhythm, stepping out of the box often.

The health of Honeycutt and Gene Nelson is vital to the A's success. Honeycutt underwent surgery on his left shoulder last March and was unable to pitch until mid-June. Even then, he had to be given extra rest. He had trouble getting his sinker down upon his return, but had regained velocity and movement by season's end. Honeycutt, who spins a tight slurve, has limited lefties to a .178 average the past two years.

Nelson suffered a broken finger in the first



Dave Henderson

game last year, protecting himself from a ball lined into the bullpen. The injury effectively wiped out his season. Although he returned in six weeks, Nelson never found his rhythm. He had a 6.84 ERA, giving up at least one run in half of his 44 appearances and 12 home runs in 49 innings. When fit and mechanically sound, the 31-year-old righthander has impressive stuff, including an excellent straight change. He also has a rubber arm.

Without Honeycutt and Nelson the first few months, La Russa often called on lefty Joe Klink to bridge the gap between the starters and Eckersley. He met the challenge (5-2, 2.67 ERA, 2 saves in 27 innings) until suffering a broken foot in early June. Klink returned after the All-Star break, but wore down under an increased workload. Still, the A's were encouraged with his overall results. Klink had 10 wins (tied for the AL lead among relievers), permitted only 8 of 46 inherited runners to score, and retired the first batter he faced in 44 of his 62 appearances. His best pitch, a big, flat slurve, makes life uncomfortable for lefty swingers.

Righthander Steve Chitren made 56 appearances as a rookie last season, yet failed to distinguish himself. He left too many balls up in the strike zone and couldn't control his big curve.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

CATCHING Terry Steinbach doesn't stand out in any phase of the game, nor does he have any glaring deficiencies. "He's a solid guy," said a scout. "He knows how to play and gets the most out of his ability."

Steinbach is a professional hitter. He waits

well on the ball, drilling a lot of shots into the right-center gap, and can jerk a mistake up in the zone. The A's like to see him at the plate with runners on base. For his career, Steinbach is a .466 hitter (27 for 58) with the bases loaded.

Last season the 30-year-old Steinbach finished in the top third among AL catchers in average (.274), RBIs (67) and extra-base hits (38). He finished in the bottom third in throwing, stopping 31 of 100 runners from stealing.

The A's were 28-21 last year with veteran backup Jamie Quirk behind the plate. He gunned down 21 of 55 would-be basestealers, and has hit .269 over the past two seasons. Quirk is a valuable lefthanded pinch-hitter (5 for 17 last year) **GRADE (max. 10): 5.5**

INFIELD Because of injuries that wiped out the left side, the A's used 16 infielders last season. The results were dismal. The collection combined for the lowest average (.236) of any infield in the majors and had fewer RBIs (236) than any group except the Yankees' (217).

First baseman Mark McGwire was a mess. When he put up his monster power totals (49 home runs, 118 RBIs) in '87, he had a shorter, quicker swing and drove pitches on the outer part of the plate deep to right-center. The McGwire of '91 had a longer swing and tried to pull everything. He had trouble with pitches away and couldn't catch up to fastballs up in the zone. What's worse, he appeared reluctant to make adjustments. Former batting coach Rick Burleson's abrasive approach seemed to frustrate McGwire. Maybe new hitting instructor Doug Rader can get him back on track.

Despite McGwire's struggles, he managed to hit 22 home runs, drive in 75 and walk 93 times. And he didn't let his offensive woes pollute his good defense.

When available, Walt Weiss is one of the top shortstops in the league. He has excellent anticipation, quick feet and hands, and the ability to unload the ball on the move. The switch-hitting Weiss makes a pest of himself with the bat and on the bases. The hangup is Weiss' susceptibility to injury. He's missed 207 games the past three years, and it's always something different. Last season it was a torn ligament in his left ankle. The year before, surgery on his left knee. In '89, surgery on his right knee.

At third base, 35-year-old Carney Lansford is attempting to come back from a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee. Before the injury, which limited him to five games last year, Lansford was an effective No. 2 hitter and an aggressive, quick-reacting defender. More important, he was the conscience of the A's, the leader who kept the team focused.

Second baseman Mike Gallego was considered a key figure in the stability of the A's defense, constantly commended by Tony La Russa for his inspirational play. That didn't carry much weight, however, when Gallego tried to create a bidding war for his services the past winter. General manager Sandy Alderson lives by the theory that you always can find a second baseman. After Gallego left for the Yankees, Alderson signed Randy Ready, whose experience gives him an edge over Lance Blankenship, Mike Bordick, Scott Brosius and Scott Hemond.

Ready lacks range at second, but has sure hands and an adequate arm. He can handle the bat, has some extra-base pop and has a higher career on-base percentage (.360) than Gallego (.314). Blankenship has a fast bat and speed on the bases. Off-speed stuff has been the bane of his major league life, and his defense is borderline. Bordick comes the closest to matching Gallego's glove, but has a slow bat. Brosius has some pop, but lacks middle-infielder quickness. The stocky Hemond, who doubles as a catcher, is surprisingly nifty and quick on the bases. He has a lot to prove with his bat, however.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

OUTFIELD Rickey Henderson is either the most electrifying player in the game or the biggest dog. Last year he decided to lap up the AL. Miffed over the dollars and years on his contract, Henderson pouted his way through spring training, neglecting to tune his tightly wound body for the long haul ahead. He was hounded by a strained calf muscle in the first few months of the season and various aches and pains later. That he coasted to a .400 on-base percentage, led the AL in steals (58) and scored 105 runs is immaterial. Rickey let down his team.

Henderson is the quintessential leadoff hitter. Extremely patient, he draws a lot of walks which lead to stolen bases and runs. He sees a lot of 2-0, 3-1 cripple pitches and deposits them into the seats. To get Henderson out, pitchers need to get ahead in the count and make him hit breaking balls. Defensively, Rickey gets to the foul line quicker than anyone, but has too many concentration lapses.

If Rickey wants to know what being a professional ballplayer is all about, he should take a long look at the Henderson to his left, centerfielder David. Hendu carried the A's the first few months of last season and played hurt (leg, Achilles' tendon) for much of the second half. Through it all, he put the team first — and enjoyed himself immensely.

Henderson has averaged .275, 21 homers and 81 RBIs in his four seasons with the A's. He prefers hard stuff down in the zone and murders lefthanders (.354 in '91). While he can look bad against breaking stuff, Hendu invariably gets good hacks in clutch situations. He might be the slowest centerfielder in the league, but positions himself intelligently, reads the ball off the bat and takes excellent pursuit angles. His arm remains very accurate.

Despite episodes of foot-in-mouth disease and occasional off-field distractions, Jose Canseco plays hard every day and does what it takes to win. He's a smart hitter with a game on the line, and is willing to give himself up to move a runner over. Canseco's strength is awesome. To neutralize his power, pitchers try getting in his kitchen with fastballs and working him away with breaking stuff.

The biggest curiosity about Canseco — other than the role Madonna plays in his life — is what he might do in a hitter's park. Last

season he led the majors in road homers (28) and RBIs (76). In seven years with Oakland, Canseco has averaged a home run every 15.4 at-bats and an RBI every 5.0 trips. He also has averaged 21 stolen bases over the past five years. Although Canseco is criticized as a stiff defender, he has good lateral range and a strong, albeit inaccurate, arm.

Veteran switch-hitter Willie Wilson gives the A's a capable fourth outfielder and base-stealing speed. He has at least 20 stolen bases in each of the past 14 seasons. Wilson batted .407 with runners in scoring position and two out last year.

DESIGNATED HITTER At 33, Harold Baines retains a quick left-side bat and power to all fields. Because he's so far off the plate and kick-starts his swing for fastballs, pitchers like to get him off-balance with off-speed stuff away. Baines, though, is quick to decode pitching patterns and adjusts accordingly.

Teams pitched around Baines frequently last season (22 intentional walks) because he's the only dangerous lefthanded bat in the A's order. Yet he saw enough good pitches to lead the team in batting (.295) and post the sixth-best road average (.322) in the league. He reached 20 home runs for the first time since '87. Chronic knee problems restrict Baines' duty in the outfield.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.5

MANAGEMENT General manager Sandy Alderson and manager Tony La Russa have a healthy respect for each other and a solid working relationship. But tough times await both. Alderson is hamstrung by an enormous payroll. His high-priced stars are difficult to unload, and a strained budget precludes him from adding attractive free agents. He needs to restock a farm system that has some pitching prospects, but is low on position players. La Russa is confronted with the task of pumping life into a veteran team that folded down the stretch last year.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.5

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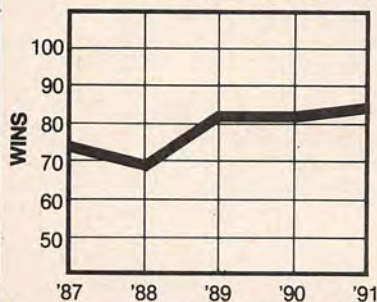
PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA
Briscoe, John	R-R	6-3	185	24	AA-AAA Oakland	5-5 0-0	3.48 7.07	24 11	0	81 14	74 12	46 10	68 9	240 235
Campbell, Kevin	R-R	6-2	225	27	AAA Oakland	9-2 1-0	1.80 2.74	35 14	2	75 23	53 13	35 14	56 16	202 167
Chitren, Steve	R-R	6-0	180	24	Oakland	1-4	4.33	56	4	60	59	32	47	258
Darling, Ron	R-R	6-3	195	31	New York (NL) Montreal Oakland	5-6 0-2 3-7	3.87 7.41 4.08	17 4	0	102 17 75	96 25 64	28 5 38	58 11 60	251 333 237
Dressendorfer, Kirk	R-R	5-11	190	22	AAA Oakland	1-3 3-3	10.88 5.45	8 7	0	24 35	31 33	20 21	19 17	323 244
Eckersley, Dennis	R-R	6-2	195	37	Oakland	5-4	2.96	67	43	76	60	9	87	208
Erwin, Scott	R-L	6-2	210	24	AA-AA	2-4	3.32	30	4	36	22	23	52	170
Guzman, Johnny	R-L	5-10	155	21	AA-AAA Oakland	4-6 1-0	5.62 9.00	24 5	0	124 5	159 11	76 2	63 3	319 500
Harris, Reggie	R-R	6-1	190	23	AAA Oakland	5-4 0-0	4.99 12.00	16 2	0	83 3	83 5	58 3	72 2	263 455
Honeycutt, Rick	L-L	6-1	191	37	Oakland	2-4	3.58	43	0	38	37	20	26	261
Klink, Joe	L-L	5-11	175	30	A Oakland	0-0 10-3	3.60 4.35	3 62	0	5 2	4 62	1 34	1 260	222
Moore, Mike	R-R	6-4	205	32	Oakland	17-8	2.96	33	0	210	176	105	153	229
Nelson, Gene	R-R	6-0	174	31	Oakland	1-5	6.84	44	0	49	60	23	23	306
Osteen, Gavin	R-L	6-0	195	22	AA	13-9	3.54	28	0	174	176	65	105	267
Show, Eric	R-R	6-1	185	35	AA-AAA Oakland	3-3 1-2	3.56 5.92	9 23	0	43 52	42 82	10 26	28 47	253 300
Slusarski, Joe	R-R	6-4	195	25	AAA Oakland	4-2 5-7	2.72 5.27	7 20	0	46 109	42 121	10 52	25 60	244 283
Stewart, Dave	R-R	6-2	200	35	Oakland	11-11	5.18	35	0	226	245	105	144	278
Van Poppel, Todd	R-R	6-5	210	20	AA Oakland	6-13 0-0	3.47 9.64	24 1	0	132 5	118 7	90 2	115 6	236 368
Coaches — Dave Duncan; Art Kusnyer; Rene Lachemann; Dave McKay; Doug Rader; Tommie Reynolds														

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	
Walton, Bruce	R-R	6-2	195	29	AAA Oakland	1-1 1-0	1.35 6.23	38 12	20	47	39	5	49	220	
Weich, Bob	R-R	6-3	198	35	Oakland	12-13	4.58	35	0	220	220	91	101	263	
CATCHERS	B-T <td>HL<td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td></td>	HL <td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td>	WL <td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td>	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Quirk, Jamie	L-R	6-4	200	37	Oakland	.261	.321	203	16	53	4	0	1	17	0
Steinbach, Terry	R-R	6-1	195	30	Oakland	.274	.312	456	50	125	31	1	6	67	2
INFELDERS	B-T <td>HL<td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td></td>	HL <td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td>	WL <td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td>	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Blankenship, Lance	R-R	6-0	185	28	AAA Oakland	.294 .249	.412 .336	109 185	19 33	32 46	7 8	0 0	1 3	11 21	9
Bordick, Mike	R-R	5-11	175	26	AAA Oakland	.272 .238	.404 .289	81 235	15 21	22 56	4 5	1 1	2 0	14 21	0
Brosius, Scott	R-R	6-1	185	25	AAA Oakland	.286 .235	.337 .268	245 68	28 9	70 16	3 5	8 0	31 2	4 4	3
Hemond, Scott	R-R	6-0	205	26	AAA Oakland	.272 .217	.361 .250	327 23	50 4	89 5	19 5	5 0	3 0	31 0	11
Howitt, Dann	L-R	6-5	205	28	AAA Oakland	.267 .167	.339 .182	449 42	58 5	120 7	28 1	6 1	14 0	73 1	5
Lansford, Carney	R-R	6-2	195	35	AAA Oakland	.304 .063	.360 .063	23 16	1	7	1	1	0	1	0
McGwire, Mark	R-R	6-5	225	28	Oakland	.201	.330	483	62	97	22	0	22	75	2
Paquette, Craig	R-R	6-0	185	23	AA	.262	.314	378	60	99	18	1	8	60	0
Ready, Randy	R-R	5-11	182	32	Philadelphia	.249	.385	205	32	51	10	1	1	20	2
Weiss, Walt	S-R	6-0	175	28	Oakland	.226	.286	133	15	30	6	1	0	13	6
OUTFIELDERS	B-T <td>HL<td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td></td>	HL <td>WL<td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td></td>	WL <td>Age<td>1991 Club</td><td>Avg.</td><td>OBP</td><td>AB</td><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>2B</td><td>3B</td><td>HR</td><td>RBI</td><td>SB</td></td>	Age <td>1991 Club</td> <td>Avg.</td> <td>OBP</td> <td>AB</td> <td>R</td> <td>H</td> <td>2B</td> <td>3B</td> <td>HR</td> <td>RBI</td> <td>SB</td>	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Baines, Harold	L-L	6-2	195	33	Oakland	.295	.383	488	76	144	25	1	20	90	0
Canseco, Jose	R-R	6-4	240	27	Oakland	.266	.359	572	115	152	32	1	44	122	26
Henderson, Dave	R-R	6-2	220	33	Oakland	.276	.346	572	86	158	33	0	25	85	6
Henderson, Rickey	R-L	5-10	190	33	Oakland	.268	.400	470	105	126	17	1	18	57	58
Wilson, Willie	S-R	6-3	200	36	Oakland	.238	.290	294	38	70	14	4	0	28	20

TEXAS RANGERS

1991 RECORD: 85-77 MANAGER: BOBBY VALENTINE STADIUM: ARLINGTON (43,521)

5-YEAR SCAN



The Rangers' five-year plan is entering its seventh season. Texas has become competitive, one of four major league teams to have a winning record each of the past three years. The Rangers, though, still haven't won a thing. Since divisional play was instituted in 1969, every club except Texas, Cleveland and Seattle has won a title.

General manager Tom Grieve and manager Bobby Valentine, architects of the five-year plan, remain in good standing with ownership, largely because the Rangers have been entertaining enough to draw more than 2 million in home attendance each of the past three years.

The Rangers have fan appeal. Nolan Ryan, who turned 45 in January, is striking out sons of players he used to fan and still throwing no-hitters. The offense can fill a scoreboard with crooked numbers. During a club-record 14-game winning streak last season, the Rangers averaged more than eight runs, compensating for a rotation that had a 4.00 ERA in that span. But Texas always manages to fall short. Two years ago, the offense was impotent (10th in the AL in runs) and the pitching was decent (3.83 ERA). Last year the offense led the majors in runs (club-record 829) and featured the second trio of teammates in 54 years to have 200 hits and 100 runs apiece, but the pitching was horrid (4.47 ERA, 11th in the AL).

There were few personnel changes during the offseason. If everyone remains healthy, the Rangers think they are formidable enough that come September, greater Texas won't automatically shift all its attention to the Cowboys.

PITCHING The pressure is on renegade pitching coach Tom House, whose staff has led the AL in unintentional walks in each of his six full seasons on the job. The injury-prone pitchers — the Rangers used a club-record 23 last year — face an early test of durability. Texas has as many scheduled off days in September (7) as in the first half. Bobby Valentine may decide to go with a 12-man staff.

STARTING PITCHING Righthanders Nolan Ryan and Jose Guzman are the 1-2 punch, and when healthy are capable. They combined for a 25-13 record and 2.99 ERA last season, but made only 52 starts. Neither is a lock to work 200 innings, which makes it vital that others step forward. Minus Ryan and Guzman, last year's starters were 27-40 with a 5.56 ERA.

Ryan can't be expected to make it through a season without breaking down. It is a given that he will be out for a couple of weeks, minimum. To maximize his availability, the Rangers try to limit Ryan to 120 pitches, though history, like another no-hit bid, sometimes gets in the way. Some adjustments were made last year in his conditioning program, which was so strenuous that the Rangers feared it was wearing him down.

Ryan remains the pitcher most likely to have no-hit stuff whenever he walks out there. For gate purposes, the Rangers want him on the mound at Arlington Stadium as often as possible, which is why 20 of his 27 starts last year were at home. Though he has lost 1 or 2 mph off his fastball, Ryan still throws consistently in the mid-90s. When he's in a groove with his outstanding curve and circle change-up, and has gone untouched into the middle innings, ESPN is quick to switch over to the Rangers' telecast. In addition to pitching his seventh no-hitter, Ryan last season was fifth in the AL in ERA (2.91), third in strikeouts (203) and first in opponents' batting average (.172). Yet his 173 innings were his fewest in a full season since 1971.

Guzman, who hadn't pitched in the major leagues since 1988 because of shoulder surgery, was released by the Rangers last spring. The minor league brain trust, however, convinced him to re-sign with Triple-A Oklahoma City, and by late May he was in the big leagues. Mediocre in his first six starts, Guzman found a rhythm and went 12-4 with a 2.77 ERA in his final 19 starts, including 13 in which he permitted two or fewer runs. Guzman throws a solid 87-mph fastball, has refined his change-up into an out pitch, and has learned to back off his slider and give it the appearance of a slow curve. When he keeps the ball down, his pitches have plenty of action.

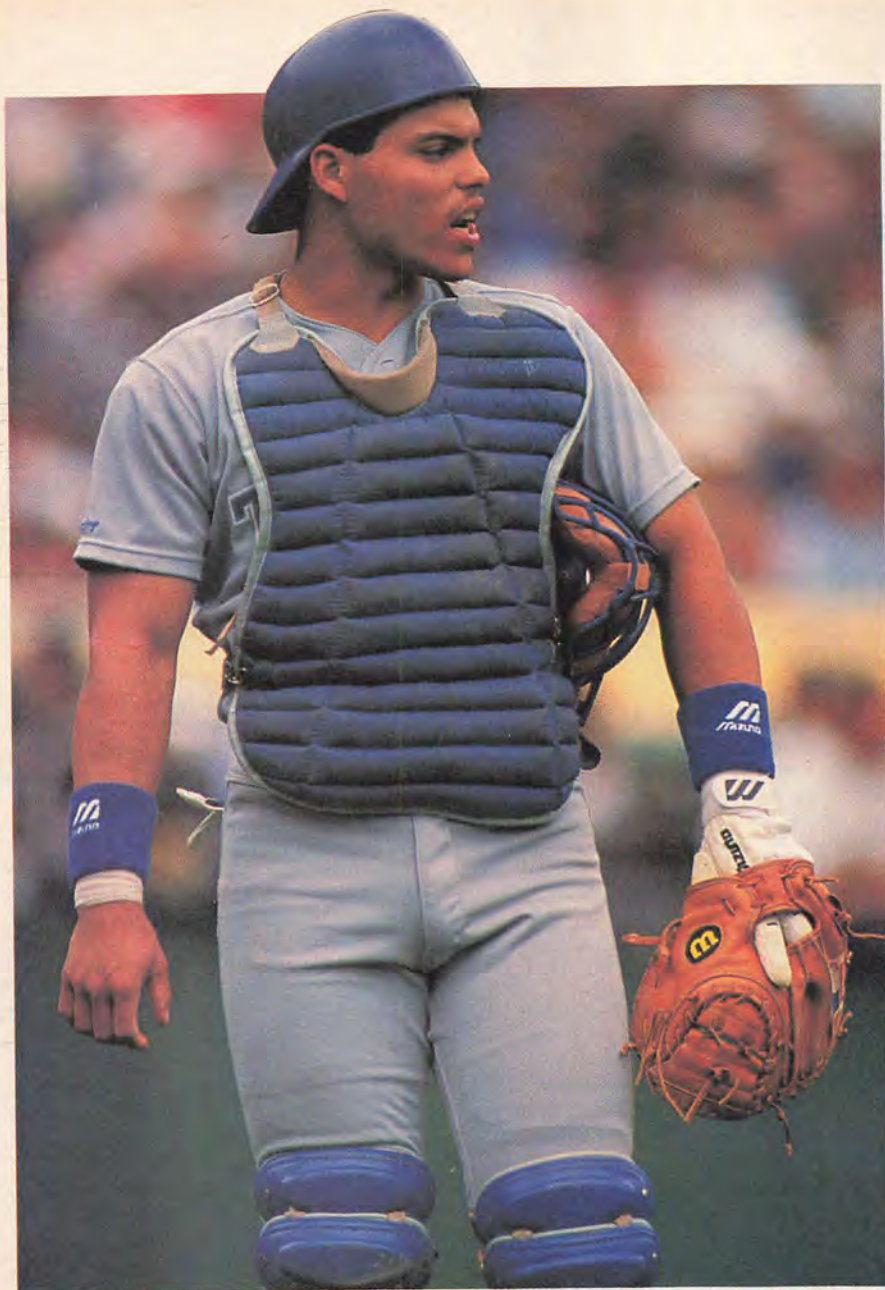
Righthander Kevin Brown has a devastating hard sinker. Traveling 90 mph and dropping as much as a foot, the pitch is so good that Brown probably could get by without anything else. He has a pretty good forkball, too, but tends to overthrow it. Yet for all his ability, Brown shows no professional traits above the neck. He's liable to lose concentration and melt at any juncture of a game, and always has an excuse. Brown was at his most undependable self last season, tying an AL record for most starts (33) without a complete



Jose Guzman

game. He had the fifth-highest ERA (4.40) in the AL, and allowed more runners per nine innings (14.4) than anyone else. If Brown isn't careful, people are going to start referring to him as the righthanded Matt Young.

Like Brown, Bobby Witt is a teaser. He broke down physically last season, limited to 89 innings because of a partial tear of his



Ivan Rodriguez

right rotator cuff and bone spurs in his right elbow. Witt has an overpowering fastball, but has taken to backing it off to 92 or 93 mph in an attempt to get it over the plate. His slider is short and quick, and his "pitchfork" change-up has forkball action, but he can't throw them for strikes, either. Six years into the big leagues, Witt remains little more than a thrower, unable to grasp concepts like pitching inside and changing speeds. If he comes around, he's a successor to Ryan. If not, he soon may go the way of Charley Kerfeld.

Righthander Hector Fajardo, acquired from Pittsburgh along with top prospect Kurt Miller in exchange for Steve Buechele last August, and perennial prospect Brian Bohanon will compete for the fifth spot in the rotation. Fajardo is a rarity on this staff — he throws strikes. His fastball hovers around 90 mph, complemented by a splitter and change-up, but his flat slider gets him into trouble. Bohanon has won battles with the bottle and injuries, rekindling hope. He's a three-pitch lefty with a legitimate fastball. Righthander Scott Chiamparino underwent "Tommy John" surgery last July and may miss the season.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

RELIEF PITCHING Jeff Russell and Kenny Rogers give the Rangers one of the better right/left relief combinations in the majors. The problem last year was that Texas began the season with Rogers in the rotation, which created a shambles of the bullpen. Russell, without a reliable setup man, was overextended.

Russell saved 30 games and made 68 appearances, but slipped further from his form of 1989, when he was one of the best closers in the AL. To be successful, Russell has to unleash his sinking mid-90s fastball. But in deference to shoulder soreness, he became tentative last year, relying heavily on a slider. Russell tied with Tim Burke for the major league lead in blown saves (10), coughing up five by surrendering game-losing home runs. With his fastball in full force, Russell gave up five home runs in 1989-90.

Rogers' makeup is better suited for the spontaneity of a relief role than the measured pace of a starter. After going 4-4 with a 7.53 ERA in nine starts last season, he was returned to the bullpen, and eventually got back on track. Rogers allowed only nine of 50 inherited runners to score, and gave up only three homers

in his final 52 innings after yielding 11 in his first 58. Rogers has a 91-mph fastball and a sharp-biting curve, but lacks an element of deception in his delivery. He needs his circle change-up to be effective against righthanded batters.

Righthander Gerald Alexander and lefty John Barfield were effective in middle roles last season. Pressed into starting in June, they were out of their comfort zones. Alexander relies on a big, biting curve, and can throw it at various speeds. Barfield has a deceptive fastball and quick slider, but his availability is uncertain. A stress fracture in his rib cage showed no signs of healing the past winter.

Righthander Terry Mathews did a solid job in middle relief after being promoted from Triple-A last August. He had a 2.60 ERA in his final 26 appearances, then went to the instructional league to work on a split-finger pitch to complement his fastball. Righthander Barry Manuel showed low-90s velocity and a decent split-finger pitch last September, though his fastball may be too true. Both will be challenged by Todd Burns, whose poor work habits finally cost him his job in Oakland.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

CATCHING The Rangers shouldn't have to worry about catching until sometime in the next century, assuming they keep Ivan Rodriguez financially happy. A minuscule version of Carlton Fisk, which accounts for Rodriguez's nickname "Pudge," the 5-9 teenager was promoted from Double-A last June and quickly established himself as one of the game's top receivers and throwers. Rodriguez has soft hands, the quickest feet in the league behind the plate, and a cannon for an arm. He led AL catchers in gunning down runners trying to steal (34 for 70) despite a staff that might be the worst in the league at holding runners.

Rodriguez, who turned 20 in November, caught more games (88) as a teenager than anyone in history except Frankie Hayes (89 for the '34 Philadelphia A's). Despite his tender years, he proved adept at calling pitches and handling the staff. At the plate, Rodriguez has a long swing, but makes solid contact and drives the ball to the opposite field. Built strong and stocky, he eventually could hit 10 to 15 homers annually.

The backup, who doesn't stand to get much work, will be Geno Petralli, a dead-fastball hitter from the left side. He also can fill in on the infield corners.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.5

INFIELD No club in the majors gets more offense from the right side of the infield than the Rangers. Second baseman Julio Franco and first baseman Rafael Palmeiro both are career .302 hitters.

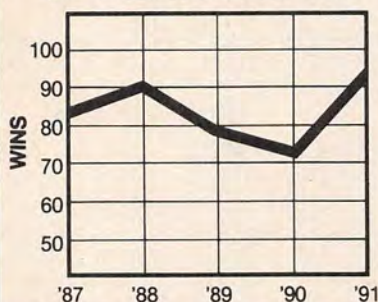
Franco last season became the AL's third righthanded-hitting batting champion (club-record .341) in the past 21 years. He pounded lefties (.368, third in league) and righties (.332, third), and it didn't matter if he was at home (.344, fourth) or on the road (.339, third). Despite holding his bat high and wrapped around his head, Franco can catch up with any fastball. He stays back on breaking pitches as well as anyone in the league, driving them with authority into the opposite field.

Franco, who retains his speed on the bases, was successful on 36 of 45 attempts last year and 88 of 107 since joining the Rangers in 1989. Although he has plenty of range at

MINNESOTA TWINS

1991 RECORD: 95-67 MANAGER: TOM KELLY STADIUM: METRODOME (55,883)

5-YEAR SCAN



The Minnesota Twins' fairy-tale 1991 season had the happiest, most improbable of endings. Last-place finishers in the American League West the previous year, the Twins defeated Atlanta in the World Series. Home-town boy Jack Morris clinched the title with 10 shutout innings in Game 7 — the most dramatic pitching effort in postseason history.

Everything went right for the Twins last season. Morris signed as a free agent, lending stability to the rotation. Scott Erickson became the first Twins righthander to win 20 games since Dave Goltz in 1977. Mike Pagliarulo and Scott Leius were more than adequate replacements for Gary Gaetti at third base, and free-agent bargain Chili Davis hit 29 home runs. Second baseman Chuck Knoblauch, in his third pro season, was the AL Rookie of the Year.

There are serious doubts about the Twins' ability to repeat. After clearing their roster of free agents Steve Bedrosian, Dan Gladden, Terry Leach, Al Newman and Junior Ortiz, they were jilted the past winter by Morris, who signed with the Toronto Blue Jays. No one is predicting repeat performances from Erickson and Davis. The Twins did nothing in the offseason to improve themselves, short of signing lefthander Bob Kipper, a two-game winner for Pittsburgh last year.

It was fun while it lasted. The Twins likely will have unpleasant moments this season as they drop back into the pack.

PITCHING The 1991 Twins were built on pitching in a ballpark built for offense. Their 3.69 ERA, third best in the AL, was the franchise's lowest in 10 years playing under the Teflon-coated ceiling of the Metrodome. Without Jack Morris this season, the ERA could rise significantly. There is no one to pick up Morris' 247-inning workload, Scott Erickson's right elbow is problematic, and without Steve Bedrosian and Mark Guthrie in the bullpen, there's little protection for closer Rick Aguilera.

Scott Erickson



STARTING PITCHING A year ago Jack Morris, Scott Erickson and Kevin Tapani were the most dominant 1-2-3 combination outside of Anaheim Stadium. Minnesota won the World Series despite receiving a 17-22 record and 5.06 ERA from the seven pitchers tried in the No. 4 and 5 spots in the rotation.

Tapani moved into the upper echelon of starters, rebounding from a 2-6 start to go 14-3 the rest of the way. With impeccable control, the righthander constantly stays ahead in the count. He never has walked more than three batters in a major league game, didn't issue a walk in 13 of his 34 starts last season, and has yielded only 15 leadoff walks in 443 big league innings. Tapani gets righthanded batters out with a split-finger pitch, lefties with an outstanding circle change-up that runs away. Negatives? His fastball straightens when he leaves it up, his motion is easy to follow, and he doesn't hold runners well.

Erickson, aided by run support of 5.8 per nine innings, won 20 games, including 12 in a row. However, with his flaky personality and right elbow problems, he has the makings of a one-year wonder.

Erickson arrived in Minnesota in June 1990 with a superb sinking fastball and biting slider. When the Twins broke camp last April, he had added velocity to the fastball, and batters were helpless against him. He went 12-3 with a 1.83 ERA before the All-Star break. Then Erickson's elbow began to ache. He went on the disabled list, came back too soon and wasn't nearly as effective in the second half, posting a 5.20 ERA. Unable to sustain velocity or provide the extra twist needed to make his sinker dart and dive, Erickson was reduced to fooling hitters with off-speed pitches. He has a compact delivery and hides the ball well, but lacks the guile to get by without his best stuff.

Lefthander Mark Guthrie can start or work out of the pen. Last season he was more effective in a setup role than as a starter, but the Twins need him in the rotation this year. Guthrie's ordinary repertoire — 87-mph fastball, forkball, slider — is enhanced by an all-arms-and-legs delivery that makes his pitches difficult to pick up. He goes after righthanded batters with the forkball. Against lefties, Guthrie will cut his fastball to make it run away.

Lefthander David West is the heir to Allan Anderson's spot. Anderson, the 1988 AL ERA champ and a 17-game winner in '89, was released after yielding a .281 batting average and 24 gopher balls in 134 innings last season. West has been a disappointment since joining Minnesota in 1989 as part of the Mets' payment for Frank Viola. He has a 5.29 ERA in 67 major league games. West lacks control of his moving, 89-mph fastball, and doesn't have an effective breaking pitch because he fails to

stay on top of the ball. A mediocre athlete, West is slow and deliberate on the mound.

The Twins were working to sign lefthander Bill Krueger as spring training approached. Krueger, 11-8 with a 3.60 ERA with Seattle last season, has a sloppy delivery that prevents him from getting his big-breaking curveball over consistently. If he signs, the Twins will move Guthrie or West to the pen.

Prospects Denny Neagle and Willie Banks are close to being ready. The Twins will call on one of them, probably Neagle, to fill the No. 5 spot in the rotation. The lefthanded Neagle has less ability than Banks, but is more experienced and a proven winner (32-10 in three minor league seasons). A soft-tosser, he needs to spot his curve and change-up to be effective. Banks, the third player selected in the June 1987 draft, has a live right arm but an erratic delivery. He has struggled with control, averaging 5.7 walks per nine innings in his minor league career. Banks' fastball, overhand curve and straight change are major league pitches. Righthanders Pat Mahomes and Mike Trombley, dominant last season at Double-A Orlando, could figure in the rotation by midseason.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

RELIEF PITCHING Questions about Rick Aguilera's ability to be a top-flight stopper were answered last season. He saved 42 games and proved he could stay healthy for the 162-game grind. The Twins did their part, rarely having him warm up without using him.

Aguilera, unavailable for three stretches in '90 because of shoulder tendinitis, never went more than a week without working last season, and appeared in back-to-back games on 11 occasions. Scouts rate Aguilera a notch below Bryan Harvey, Dennis Eckersley and Bobby Thigpen, though he was a premier closer in pressure games down the stretch. After July, he had a 1.59 ERA and 15 saves in 17 opportunities, and had five saves in post-season play. Aguilera relies on a 92-mph fastball, forkball, and an aggressive approach. He limited first batters to a .127 average last season, third best among AL relievers.

Steve Bedrosian and Terry Leach were inconsistent in setup roles last season and now are former Twins. Erstwhile long reliever Carl Willis, a righthander, and free-agent acquisition Bob Kipper, a lefty, are the likely replacements.

Willis, 31, has been with five organizations in the past five years. Last spring he accepted an invitation to the Twins minor league camp, and was promoted to the varsity 10 games into the season. He threw strikes for a change, walking only 19 in 89 innings, and limited first batters to a .114 average. Willis' easy motion belies a sneaky-quick fastball. He has an average forkball and a slider that tends to flatten out. Scouts say Willis doctored the ball last season, a common accusation when a journeyman suddenly finds success.

Kipper will be expected to face lefthanded batters in middle and late innings, a role he filled effectively with Pittsburgh in 1990 (lefties hit .225 against him), not so effectively in '91 (.321). A first-round draft pick by California in 1982, Kipper was a power pitcher before developing shoulder and elbow problems. Now the sidearmer gets by with an 83-mph fastball, slow curve, and a lot of moxie, working the corners and keeping batters guessing. Kipper's poor move to first base allows

teams to run on him at will. His signing enables the Twins to move Mark Guthrie into the rotation.

Two years ago the Twins hit paydirt in the Rule 5 draft with outfielder Shane Mack. They tried again last December, claiming righthander Jesse Cross from Toronto. Formerly a starter, Cross is anxious to give the bullpen a shot. His slider and curve were effective pitches in the minor leagues. His fastball is straight.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

CATCHING Brian Harper, a top catching prospect in the late '70s, had arm problems and bounced around pro ball without a position. He always could hit, which teams liked, but wanted to return to catching, which they didn't like. Harper forced the Twins to leave him behind the plate when he signed a minor league contract in 1987.

On a team that led the majors with a .280 batting average last season, Harper may be the purest hitter. He makes solid contact, sprays the ball to all fields, has gap power and is adept hitting breaking balls. He enhances pedestrian skills behind the plate with hustle and toughness. Harper stopped only 18 percent of the runners who tried to steal against him last season, second worst among major league starting catchers. Pitchers have to slide step, throw to first frequently and pitch out to compensate for his weak, erratic arm.

Lenny Webster, solid defensively, figures to be Scott Erickson's regular batterymate, a role Junior Ortiz filled last season. Webster, a dead fastball hitter, generates a little power with his 5-9, 192-pound frame.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

INFIELD The Twins infield committed just 60 errors last season, third fewest in the major leagues. Further improvement is likely as Chuck Knoblauch, who had 18 errors, becomes more comfortable at second base.

Knoblauch, drafted in 1989 as a shortstop, was moved across the bag in 1990 because he wasn't going to beat out Greg Gagne, and because the Twins needed to solidify second base, where they've had nine regular players in the past 11 seasons. Decent range, sure hands and a plus arm will enable Knoblauch to be a first-rate defender when he masters the double-play pivot. A righthanded hitter, he makes contact and frequently goes to the opposite field with his short, line-drive stroke. He is a good high-fastball hitter. Knoblauch stole 25 bases in 30 attempts last season, the AL's best success rate (83.3 percent) among players with at least 20 attempts. He is a perfect fit in the No. 2 spot in the order.

Gagne, 30, quietly has taken his place among the game's better shortstops. He charges well, and has AstroTurf range, soft hands, a quick release and a strong arm. An erratic bat has relegated Gagne to the bottom of the order, where he is an effective run producer. Gagne is a free-swinging, pull hitter who prefers fastballs. Impatient, he never has walked more than 30 times in a season and will chase pitches out of the strike zone when behind in the count. Nonetheless, he is a tough out with a game on the line.

First baseman Kent Hrbek never has become the big-time run producer the Twins envisioned. He has, however, proved to be a consistent threat in the middle of the order. Hrbek has hit 20 or more home runs the past eight seasons, and driven in 76 or more runs

the past 10. Disciplined at the plate, he has more walks than strikeouts in his career. While Hrbek delivered clutch hits last season, he struggled mightily in postseason play, hitting .128 and looking helpless against lefties who jammed him or threw breaking balls away. His long swing at times became a half-hearted wave. Scouts agree Hrbek's best days are behind him.

It's unfair that Hrbek, the most underrated first baseman in the majors, never has won a Gold Glove. He has great body control for a man 6-4, 262 pounds, very soft hands and a smooth toss to pitchers covering first base. He knows some tricks around the bag, too, as Atlanta's Ron Gant found out in the World Series.

Mike Pagliarulo and Scott Leius platoon at third base. Pagliarulo, run out of San Diego after a poor '90 season, made the Twins last season at the insistence of manager Tom Kelly, who withstood front-office requests to release Pags in spring training. Kelly liked Pagliarulo's steady defense, and felt batting coach Terry Crowley could help restore the stroke that produced 60 home runs in 1986-87. Though he had just six homers last year, the lefthanded-hitting Pagliarulo drove the ball to the opposite field and batted a career-high .279. His home run beat Toronto in Game 3 of the AL playoffs, and he homered off John Smoltz in Game 4 of the World Series.

Leius moves well in the field and has a strong, albeit erratic, arm. A former shortstop, he fits best at third. Leius has a long swing, prefers low fastballs, and may never have the power to hit more than 10 home runs a year. He was a much better hitter at home (.368) than on the road (.212) last season.

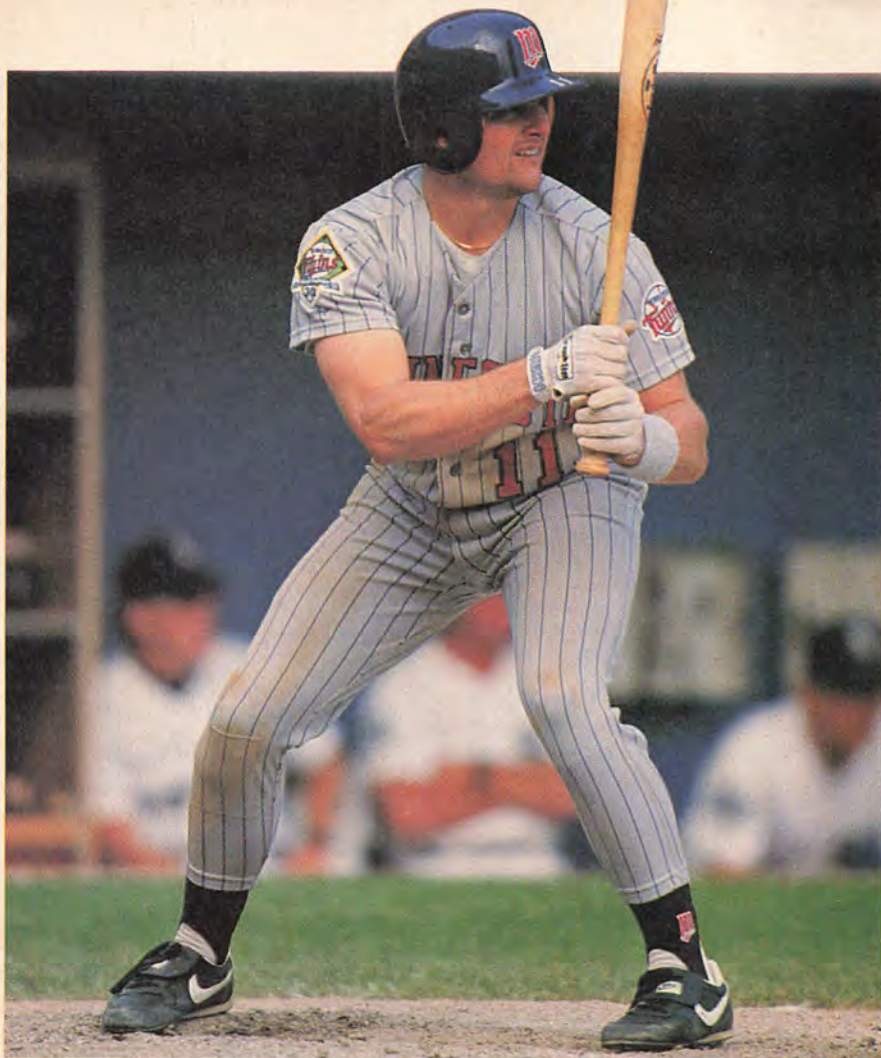
Newcomers Donnie Hill and Luis Quinones, both switch-hitters, will vie for the utility role. Hill, a high-ball hitter from both sides, is a tough out. Defensively, he has a strong arm, but doesn't move well and has stiff hands. Quinones has good pop in his bat, especially from the right side. Lacking range, he catches what he gets to and throws accurately.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

OUTFIELD The plan a year ago was to move Kirby Puckett to right field and let Shane Mack take over in center. It was abandoned early in the season because Puckett appeared disoriented in his new post. This year's experiment is to move Mack to left field, replacing Dan Gladden, and install rookie Pedro Munoz in right.

Puckett makes the Twins go. He has batted .329 and averaged 95 RBIs the past six seasons while delivering clutch hits and playing with infectious enthusiasm. A free-swinger, Puckett makes adjustments, uses the whole field and drives balls into the gaps. He murdered lefthanded pitching last season, hitting a major league-best .407. A good baserunner, he attempted only 16 stolen bases and hasn't stolen 20 since 1986. Puckett plays deep in center, making sure nothing gets over his head in the Metrodome, where the ball is difficult to locate once you've taken your eyes off it. Though he doesn't throw as well as he once did, Puckett led Twins outfielders with 13 assists last season.

Mack has been a revelation since the Twins paid \$50,000 to draft him from San Diego in December 1989. A five-tool talent, he has the agility and speed to play all three outfield posts. Mack has a strong arm, but throws deliberately and isn't accurate. The Twins want



Chuck Knoblauch

him in left because they feel it is a harder position to play than right in the Metrodome. Balls hit off the left-field wall carom wildly, whereas in right they drop softly after hitting the baggie. Mack is a first-pitch, high-fastball hitter with over-the-fence power. Though vulnerable to good breaking pitches, he will punish mistakes. Mack was the Twins' best hitter in the second half last season, batting .356 with 10 home runs and 45 RBIs. He lacks

base-running instincts.

Munoz, 23, has gap power and can run. A free-swinger befitting the Twins' offensive approach, he never has met a fastball he didn't like. As with many young hitters, Munoz is vulnerable to breaking pitches and will have to adjust. Somewhat stiff defensively, he has a rightfielder's arm, but struggles to control it.

Switch-hitter Gene Larkin and lefthanded hitter Randy Bush are outfield/DH insurance

policies. Larkin is a high-ball hitter from both sides, though is more effective lefthanded. A mediocre outfielder, he can't run and doesn't throw well. Bush, also stiff defensively (no range, poor arm), is a dead pull hitter who feasts on fastballs. He hit .382 in 34 pinch-hitting roles last season.

DESIGNATED HITTER Many things went right for the Twins in '91, none more than the resurgence of Chili Davis, 32, who was signed as a free agent after being cut loose by California. Davis reported to the Twins 25 pounds lighter than in 1990, and without the back problems that had troubled him. The result was a much quicker bat. He hit a career-high 29 home runs, had 93 RBIs and batted .277, his highest average since 1986. Davis, who tailed off in the second half, can't be expected to repeat those numbers, though the Twins' easiest offseason decision was to exercise their option on his contract. Davis tends to chase high fastballs from the left side, bad breaking pitches from the right.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

MANAGEMENT Probably no manager in either league is more appreciated by his players and opponents and less appreciated by the media than Tom Kelly. He is a brilliant handler of a pitching staff. He isn't afraid to lose a game with Lenny Webster and Randy Bush in the lineup so his horses will be fresh come September. "He has the ability to make his point and get on players, yet he does it with some humor and the realization that there's no panic involved," says Mike Pagliarulo.

General manager Andy MacPhail has supplied the players to make Kelly's system work. When budgetary decisions forced MacPhail to revamp the Twins after the 1987 world championship, he didn't panic, standing behind Kelly when the Twins fell to last place in 1990, and working with him to get things back in order a year ago.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

T.Q.® 36.0

PITCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA
Abbott, Paul	R-R	6-3	193	24	AAA	2-3	3.89	8	0	44	36	28	40	.224
					Minnesota	3-1	4.75	15	0	47	38	36	43	.232
Aguilera, Rick	R-R	6-5	205	30	Minnesota	4-5	2.35	63	42	69	44	30	61	.183
Banks, Willie	R-R	6-1	190	23	AAA	9-8	4.55	25	0	146	156	76	63	.276
					Minnesota	1-1	5.71	5	0	17	21	12	16	.288
Casian, Larry	R-L	6-0	170	26	AAA	3-2	3.46	34	2	52	51	16	24	.260
					Minnesota	0-0	7.36	15	0	18	28	7	6	.354
Cross, Jesse	R-R	5-10	195	23	AA	10-9	2.83	31	1	172	141	71	128	.243
Edens, Tom	L-R	6-2	185	30	AAA	10-7	3.01	25	0	161	145	62	100	.246
					Minnesota	2-2	4.09	8	0	33	34	10	19	.256
Erickson, Scott	R-R	6-4	225	24	Minnesota	20-8	3.18	32	0	204	189	71	108	.248
Garces, Rich	R-R	6-0	215	20	AA-AAA	2-2	4.03	20	3	29	22	22	30	.210
Guthrie, Mark	S-L	6-4	196	26	Minnesota	7-5	4.32	41	2	98	116	41	72	.303
Kipper, Bob	R-L	6-2	180	27	Pittsburgh	2-2	4.65	52	4	60	66	22	38	.276
Mahomes, Pat	R-R	6-1	175	21	AA-AAA	11-10	2.31	27	0	171	127	93	177	.211
Neagle, Denny	L-L	6-4	209	23	AAA	9-4	3.27	19	0	105	101	32	94	.254
					Minnesota	0-1	4.05	7	0	20	28	7	14	.329
Newman, Alan	L-L	6-6	212	22	A-AA	11-9	3.20	26	0	159	139	79	132	.234
Tapani, Kevin	R-R	6-0	187	28	Minnesota	16-9	2.99	34	0	244	225	40	135	.245
Trombley, Mike	R-R	6-2	200	24	AA	12-7	2.54	27	0	191	153	57	175	.220
Tsamis, George	R-L	6-2	175	24	AA-AAA	10-8	3.27	30	0	175	183	66	75	.293
Wassenaar, Rob	R-L	6-2	200	26	AA-AAA	6-6	2.47	55	6	102	93	32	83	.242
Wayne, Gary	L-L	6-3	200	29	AAA	4-5	2.79	51	8	68	63	31	66	.246
					Minnesota	1-0	5.11	8	1	12	11	4	7	.244
West, David	L-L	6-6	231	27	Minnesota	4-4	4.54	15	0	71	66	28	52	.244
Willis, Carl	L-R	6-4	212	31	AAA	1-1	1.64	3	0	11	5	0	0	.132
					Minnesota	8-3	2.63	40	2	89	76	19	53	.232

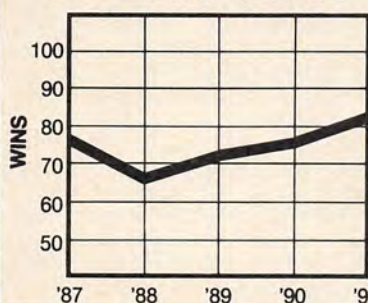
Coaches — Terry Crowley; Ron Gardenhire; Rick Stelmazek; Dick Such; Wayne Terwilliger

CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Harper, Brian	R-R	6-2	208	32	Minnesota	.311	.336	441	54	137	28	1	10	69	1
Parks, Derek	R-R	6-0	205	23	AA	.215	.325	255	31	55	14	0	6	31	0
Webster, Lenny	R-R	5-9	192	27	AAA	.252	.303	325	43	82	0	0	7	34	0
					Minnesota	.294	.390	34	7	10	1	0	3	8	0
INFELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Gagne, Greg	R-R	5-11	172	30	Minnesota	.265	.310	408	52	108	23	3	8	42	11
Garcia, Chao	S-R	5-11	165	23	AA	.282	.349	496	57	140	24	4	9	75	13
Gilbert, Shawn	R-R	5-9	170	27	AA	.255	.332	529	69	135	12	5	3	38	43
Hill, Donnie	S-R	5-10	161	31	California	.239	.335	209	36	50	8	1	1	20	1
Hrbek, Kent	L-R	6-4	262	31	Minnesota	.284	.373	462	72	131	20	1	20	89	4
Jorgensen, Terry	R-R	6-4	213	25	AAA	.298	.376	456	74	136	29	0	11	59	1
Knoblauch, Chuck	R-R	5-9	175	23	Minnesota	.281	.351	565	78	159	24	6	1	50	25
Leius, Scott	R-R	6-3	207	26	Minnesota	.286	.378	199	35	57	7	2	5	20	5
Pagliarulo, Mike	L-R	6-2	195	32	Minnesota	.279	.322	365	38	102	20	0	6	36	1
Quinones, Luis	S-R	5-11	180	30	Cincinnati	.222	.297	212	15	47	4	3	4	20	1
Sorrento, Paul	L-R	6-2	223	26	AAA	.308	.404	409	59	126	30	2	13	79	1
					Minnesota	.255	.314	47	6	12	2	0	4	13	0
OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Brown, Jarvis	R-R	5-7	177	25	AAA	.289	.351	436	62	126	5	8	3	37	26
					Minnesota	.216	.256	37	10	8	0	0	0	0	7
Bruett, J.T.	L-L	5-11	175	24	AAA	.284	.363	345	51	98	6	3	0	35	21
Bush, Randy	L-L	6-1	190	33	Minnesota	.303	.401	165	21	50	10	1	6	23	0
Davis, Chili	S-R	6-3	219	32	Minnesota	.277	.385	534	84	148	34	1	29	93	5
Larkin, Gene	S-R	6-3	199	29	Minnesota	.286	.361	255	34	73	14	1	2	19	2
Mack, Shane	R-R	6-0	190	28	Minnesota	.310	.363	442	79	137	27	8	18	74	13
Munoz, Pedro	R-R	5-10	208	23	AAA	.316	.373	212	33	67	19	2	5	28	9
					Minnesota	.283	.327	138	15	39	7	1	7	26	3
Puckett, Kirby	R-R	5-8	226	31	Minnesota	.319	.352	611	92	195	29	6	15	89	11

SEATTLE MARINERS

1991 RECORD: 83-79 MANAGER: BILL PLUMMER STADIUM: KINGDOME (57,748)

5-YEAR SCAN



The 1991 Mariners posted their first winning record since joining the American League in 1977 and surpassed 2 million in home attendance. Seattle excitement dissipated quickly, however, as it became apparent that the latest club owner is just another carpetbagger.

Jeff Smulyan was hailed as a savior when he bought the Mariners in October 1989 from penurious George Argyros. Smulyan, though, has proved to be little more than a slick, overleveraged yuppie from Indianapolis. Staggered by losses in his radio/TV empire, he is holding the Mariners for ransom. Local interests have until late March to make an *acceptable* \$100 million offer, or else Smulyan will slink off to St. Petersburg, Fla., which is poised to bail him out. Jerseys without a city name stitched onto the front were ordered for 1992.

Instead of celebrating the offseason acquisition of Kevin Mitchell, Mariners faithful feared the Great Northwest was about to be abandoned for the second time by major league baseball because of unqualified ownership.

Turning to baseball. ... Mitchell is the middle-of-the-order presence needed to protect The Franchise, Ken Griffey Jr. The Mariners rallied from deficits of three or more runs to win games 10 times last season. Who knows what may happen now that they have a true slugger?

Before anybody under a dome in Seattle or St. Petersburg becomes too giddy, remember that last year's historic 83-79 record was fashioned by pounding the bottom teams in the AL East. The Mariners were 36-12 against Milwaukee, New York, Baltimore and Cleveland; 20 games under .500 against everybody else.

PITCHING To afford Kevin Mitchell, even though San Francisco sent along cash to help defray his salary, the Mariners had to trim in other areas. They did it by ravaging the pitching staff, sending Bill Swift, Mike Jackson and Dave Burba to the Giants and not re-

signing Scott Bankhead, Rob Murphy and Bill Krueger.

What's left are two proven starters (Erik Hanson and Randy Johnson), a closer (Mike Schooler) who probably can't work on consecutive days, and a bunch of kids who will make minimum wage or just above it. Brian Holman, the only semblance of a staff leader, underwent shoulder surgery last fall and is out until at least July.

In other words, don't expect a challenge to the best staff ERAs in club history (3.69 in 1990, 3.79 last year). Same for the 68-19 record the Mariners had last season when scoring at least four runs.

STARTING PITCHING Finding a right/left combo that compares with 6-6 Erik Hanson and 6-10 Randy Johnson is a tall order. It will be a short rotation, though, if rookies Dave Fleming and Roger Salkeld don't measure up to expectations.

Hanson has the requisite stuff of a No. 1 starter. He throws a 90-mph fastball, one of the best curves in the league and a straight change-up good enough to be used in any situation. An 18-game winner in 1990, he was being mentioned in Cy Young terms for 1991. Hanson, though, was a disappointment, showing little hint of the mental toughness required to battle through adversity. Top pitchers make adjustments when they don't have their best stuff; Hanson waits for someone to rescue him.

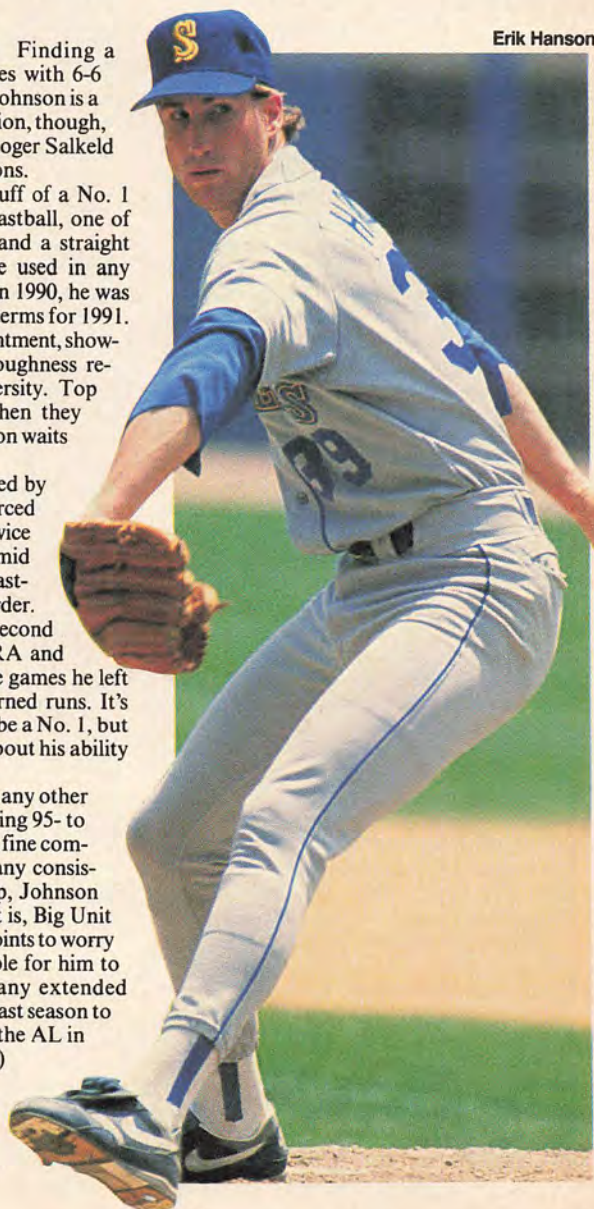
He also appears to be spooked by pain. A tender right elbow forced Hanson onto the disabled list twice in the first half last season. Timid about cutting loose with his fastball, he fell into mechanical disorder. Hanson did get on track in the second half, going 4-4 with a 3.64 ERA and failing to gain a decision in five games he left after yielding two or fewer earned runs. It's not too late for Hanson, 26, to be a No. 1, but he has to change some minds about his ability to ride through storms.

Johnson throws harder than any other AL starter, consistently delivering 95- to 98-mph heat, and his slurve is a fine complement. If he could develop any consistency with a straight change-up, Johnson likely would be outlawed. As it is, Big Unit has so many mechanical checkpoints to worry about that it's almost impossible for him to keep everything in sync for any extended period. He did it often enough last season to rank second to Nolan Ryan in the AL in strikeouts per nine innings (10.2) and opponents' batting average (.213). He broke down enough to become the wildest AL pitcher in this century to work at least 200 innings,

averaging 6.8 walks per nine innings. Johnson surrendered more walks (152) than hits (151).

When he struggles, Johnson tends to let frustration get the better of him, sometimes to a point where teammates think he quits on the mound. He did show more maturity as the season progressed, going 10-4 with a 3.50 ERA in the final four months despite 84 walks in 131 innings. He struck out 152 in that span.

Salkeld has struck out 402 in 368 innings since being the third player drafted in 1989. The 6-5 righthander has superb mechanics, is pushing his fastball into the 95-mph range,



Erik Hanson

and goes after hitters with an arrogant confidence. If his curve, slider and change-up continue to develop, he eventually should be the ace of the staff. Whether Salkeld, 21 in March, is ready, who knows? Seattle saved a few bucks by not promoting him last September.

Fleming is a lefthander long on guile and guts, and has had big success in the minor leagues (19-9, 2.56 ERA). But scouts wonder if his stuff might be a bit short for him to survive as a starter in the majors. He is adept at locating his fastball and changing speeds, and needs his curve and change-up to be working. Left-side batters have trouble picking up Fleming's pitches when he drops to a sidearm angle.

Righthander Rich DeLucia won 12 games as a 1991 rookie. He also led the AL in homers allowed (31). DeLucia can throw strikes with his curve, but his fastball and change-up are below-average pitches. The deeper he got into last season, the harder DeLucia was hit. He had a 5.61 ERA and 3.9 strikeouts per nine innings after the All-Star break, compared with 4.63 and 5.7 in the first half.

Rookie lefthander Mike Remlinger, obtained with Kevin Mitchell from San Francisco, throws a solid fastball and has a dandy curve. If the split-finger pitch he began working on in earnest last year comes around, he could move Fleming or DeLucia to the bullpen.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

RELIEF PITCHING Bill Swift and Mike Jackson did 37 percent of Seattle's relief work last season, accounted for 31 of the club-record 48 saves, and compiled a 2.61 ERA, compared with 3.48 for 14 others used out of the bullpen. The Mariners had the second-lowest bullpen ERA (3.16) in the league.

Forget Swift and Jackson; they're in San Francisco. What's left? A lot of questions. The biggest concern is the health of erstwhile closer Mike Schooler, who missed the first half of last season because of a strained shoulder and didn't show consistent velocity upon his return. Schooler managed only seven saves and eventually was relegated to setup duty, which was to be his role this year had Swift not been traded.

Schooler looked like his old self on occasion, dealing with his sinking fastball and hard slider. But when used two days in a row, he threw 5- to 7-mph slower on the second day. While 14 earned runs and a 3.67 ERA in 34 innings didn't look great, Schooler gave up runs in only five of 34 appearances, including nine in two games. The Mariners have their fingers crossed that a winter's rest will restore resiliency in his arm.

If a new closer is needed, righthander Calvin Jones has the arm and poise. First summoned in mid-June from Triple-A Calgary, where he was working on his eighth year in the minors, Jones showed a major league fastball and a nasty forkball that breaks like a hard slider. The rap on Jones, 28, is that he can't always be counted on to throw strikes.

Lefthander Russ Swan will move from long man to a setup role that opened when Rob Murphy wasn't re-signed. Swan is tough on lefties (.193 last year) and hopes a forkball will cure his problems against righties (.319).

The sleeper is righthander Gene Harris, who has knock-your-eyes-out stuff, but falls behind in the count and goes timid. Harris also has an annoying habit of going AWOL everytime the Mariners try to send him to Calgary.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

CATCHING Everyone thought Dave Valle might be an All-Star if he ever stayed healthy for a full season. Everyone was wrong. Valle didn't have so much as a hangnail last year, and for part of it threatened to erase Bill Bergen (.139 in 1909) as the worst hitter in major league history with 300 at-bats. But after batting .135 with 4 homers and 9 RBIs before the All-Star break, Valle busted out with a prodigious (for him) second half of .261-4-23. Although he can chip in an occasional long ball, this man is not a good hitter. Valle has no clue about pitching patterns, which leaves him lunging at the ball 90 percent of the time. His .163 batting average with runners in scoring position last season was second worst in the AL.

Valle isn't afraid to get dirty behind the plate and throws with a strong, accurate arm — he caught 24 of 65 runners last year — but otherwise is a pedestrian receiver. He has stiff hands, and doesn't seem tuned in to his pitchers. After new manager Bill Plummer announced that he'd call the pitches next season, Valle welcomed the plan, claiming the responsibility was too much of a burden on him.

Valle, however, is a much more attractive alternative than Scott Bradley, whose arm is so poor that on one occasion last year the Tigers tried a hit-and-run...with Cecil Fielder on first base. Bradley's only usefulness is as a left-handed pinch-hitter and judging from last season (3 for 25), that asset may be gone, too.

Dave Cochrane, who is learning to catch in the big leagues, and rookie Chris Howard, a decent receiver who can't hit, are other possibilities.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

INFIELD It's time to find out if Tino Martinez can play. The Will Clark of Triple-A the past two seasons, Martinez has batted a soft .211 in 180 at-bats for the Mariners. He has some jerk-power in his left-side swing, but primarily is an alley hitter. Major league pitchers have had little trouble jamming Martinez, so it remains to be seen if he has requisite bat speed. He's OK at first base, but has none of Pete O'Brien's grace.

Martinez will break in playing against right-handers, with O'Brien facing lefties. Embarrassed by his 1990 performance after becoming the most expensive free-agent acquisition in Mariners history, O'Brien added some muscle for 1991 and regained his short stroke. He had his most productive season (.248, 17 HR, 88 RBIs) since 1987, ending a stretch of four straight years in which his average, home runs and RBIs declined. He still hits too many warning-track fly balls, and facing lefties most of the time is bound to take a toll. Nobody makes the 3-6-3 double play slicker than O'Brien, who would have some Gold Gloves if he hit like Don Mattingly.

If the Mariners leave town, no one will miss the Kingdom more than second baseman Harold Reynolds, who hit .299 and was successful on 15 of 16 stolen-base attempts at home last season. On the road, he was a regular Mario Mendoza, batting .208 and stopped on 7 of 20 theft attempts. Reynolds swings with much more authority from the right side. Lefthanded, he constantly chases high pitches and lifts opposite-field popups. Never comfortable batting leadoff, Reynolds was dropped to the second slot early last season and probably will bat ninth this year.

While he has become dependable in the

clutch (.322 with runners in scoring position last season), Reynolds remains deficient in other areas. He misses more signs from the third base coach than everyone else on the team combined, and lacks instincts on the bases. Reynolds makes too many errors to justify three Gold Gloves, but there is no question about his range and willingness to turn the double play.

With Kevin Mitchell joining the lineup, Edgar Martinez can hit his annual .300 and get on base 40 percent of the time, and nobody will notice that he doesn't hit enough homers or drive in enough runs for a third baseman. Martinez has a smooth inside-out stroke and adjusts for breaking pitches better than anyone else on the team. Relaxed, he fills the alleys with doubles. Pressed for production, Martinez jerks at the ball, which resulted in a .219 average with runners in scoring position last year. After getting a knee fixed, Martinez has proved to be a dependable catch-and-throw third baseman.

As long as Omar Vizquel is the shortstop, the Mariners will talk about upgrading at the position. He has soft hands and is fearless on the double play, but lacks adequate range for artificial turf. While Vizquel makes an occasional spectacular play to his left, it wouldn't be spectacular if he wasn't cheating to his right. He has a slow bat from both sides of the plate and doesn't steal bases.

Utilityman Jeff Schaefer is around to platoon with Vizquel on occasion and pick fights with opponents.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

OUTFIELD Over the past two seasons, the Mariners are the only club in the majors that has less than 50 percent of its homers from righthanded batters. Kevin Mitchell should change that, considering he's hit more homers the past three years (109) than anyone else and is moving to the smaller-parks league.

Adjusting to the AL should not be difficult for Mitchell. He stands on top of the plate, daring pitchers to come inside. Most try to be too fine, and catch too much of the plate. And for those breaking-ball artists around the AL who intend to work Mitchell away, be forewarned: He makes superb adjustments for junk.

Mitchell comes with baggage. He likes his own set of rules, doesn't always show up ready to play, and occasionally looks as if his diet consists of Budweiser and mashed potatoes. A poor leftfielder with chronic knee problems, he's going to an artificial-turf club. However, once Mitchell discovers that the DH can spend most of the game in the clubhouse, he won't even own a glove.

That will allow Henry Cotto to play left four or five days a week and be the leadoff hitter, with Greg Briley playing the rest of the time. Cotto has a great knack on the bases (lifetime 91-of-110 success on thefts) and is a superb fielder, but wears down when he plays too much and struggles against breaking stuff. Briley has line-drive sting in his left-side bat and no longer is in danger of hurting himself in the outfield.

Walt Weiss probably was right: Ken Griffey Jr. cost himself four years on the pension plan by going to high school. Before he turned 22 last November, The Kid had been in two All-Star games, won two Gold Gloves, became the 12th-youngest player in history to have a 100-RBI season, and made enough spectacular catches in center for a highlights reel that



Ken Griffey Jr.

first-pitch strike, then let him flail away at outside junk. When he relaxes into his swing, Buhner crushes anything low and out over the plate, hitting monster homers to center and right-center. After a start so bad last season he was benched, Buhner got untracked in June and eventually unloaded 27 homers, despite a late drought of 118 at-bats without a long ball. He covers plenty of ground in right field and throws with a gun.

DESIGNATED HITTER If Kevin Mitchell isn't here full time out of spring training, he's sure to be against lefthanders, with Pete O'Brien swatting against the righties. This hardly figures to be the hole it was last year, when venerable Alvin Davis played himself out of the future by batting .221 with 12 homers and 69 RBIs.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

MANAGEMENT Despite concerns about his work ethic and penchant for golf courses, the Mariners extended general manager Woody Woodward's contract last year — in the name of stability. Until being put on notice, Woodward used the financial woes of Jeff Smulyan as an excuse for doing nothing to improve the team. Give Woodward credit for landing Kevin Mitchell without giving up Erik Hanson or Randy Johnson. But if the GM had bothered to pick up the phone the past two years, the Mariners could have had Jesse Barfield or Pedro Guerrero, not to mention Mariano Duncan, and stood a better chance of avoiding their annual August fade.

The new manager is Bill Plummer, who replaced Jim Lefebvre, the most successful manager in club history but fired for no official reason. Plummer deserves this shot, having suffered with the organization since 1978. He mentions Vern Rapp and Sparky Anderson as being influential in shaping his ideas about managing. Perhaps Plummer will be a disciplinarian with a sense of humor.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.5

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would run longer than *Gone with the Wind*. Without Mitchell for protection, Junior put together the best second half in the majors last season, batting .372 with 13 homers and 64 RBIs. He set club records for average (.327), doubles (42) and slugging percentage (.527).

Griffey can do anything he wants on a ball-field. Exceptional eye/hand coordination enables him to turn around any fastball and adjust for junk. His only enemy is impatience, which shows when he falls behind a lefthander

and chases breaking balls in the dirt. As he goes on, Junior could evolve into a 30-homer man. In center, he tracks balls from gap to gap with a graceful glide, has an uncanny sense of timing on homer-saving leaps, and throws with a strong, usually accurate arm.

It's too early to tell if rightfielder Jay Buhner is the next Rocky Colavito or the next Rob Deer. Buhner has Grand Canyon power, but the intensity to match, and screws himself into horrid slumps. Pitchers buzz him inside with a

PITCHERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA						
DeLucia, Rich	R-R	6-0	180	27	Seattle	12-13	5.09	32	0	182	176	78	98	260					
Elliott, Donny	R-R	6-4	200	23	A	11-8	4.79	28	0	158	120	87	184	211					
Fleming, Dave	L-L	6-3	200	22	AA-AAA	12-6	2.54	24	0	156	139	28	125	236					
					Seattle	1-0	6.62	9	0	18	19	3	11	284					
Hanson, Erik	R-R	6-6	210	26	AAA	0-0	1.50	1	0	6	1	2	5	056					
					Seattle	8-8	3.81	27	0	175	182	56	143	269					
Harris, Gene	R-R	5-11	190	27	AAA	4-0	3.34	25	4	35	37	11	23	272					
					Seattle	0-0	4.05	8	1	13	15	10	6	273					
Holman, Brian	R-R	6-4	185	27	Seattle	13-14	3.69	30	0	195	199	77	108	268					
Johnson, Randy	R-L	6-10	225	28	Seattle	13-10	3.98	33	0	201	151	152	228	213					
Jones, Calvin	R-R	6-3	185	28	AAA	1-1	3.91	20	7	23	19	19	25	216					
					Seattle	2-2	2.53	27	2	46	33	29	42	209					
Knackert, Brent	R-R	6-3	190	22	A	0-0	2.08	2	0	4	3	3	7	188					
Nelson, Jeff	R-R	6-8	225	25	AA-AAA	7-4	2.09	49	19	61	62	24	60	272					
Newlin, Jim	R-R	6-2	205	25	AA	6-5	2.25	47	12	64	58	29	48	252					
Remlinger, Mike	L-L	6-0	195	25	AAA	5-5	6.38	19	0	109	134	59	68	305					
					San Francisco	2-1	4.37	8	0	35	36	20	19	271					
Salkeld, Roger	R-R	6-5	215	21	AA-AAA	10-9	3.28	27	0	173	149	68	180	236					
Schooler, Mike	R-R	6-3	220	29	AA	1-1	5.56	11	0	11	13	3	12	283					
					Seattle	3-3	3.67	34	7	34	25	10	31	198					
Swan, Russ	L-L	6-4	215	28	Seattle	6-2	3.43	63	2	79	81	28	33	269					
Woodson, Kerry	R-R	6-2	190	22	A-AA	6-6	2.27	18	0	107	106	55	64	262					
Zavaras, Clint	R-R	6-1	175	25	A-AA	3-5	4.17	17	0	72	71	47	59	283					
CATCHERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					
Bradley, Scott	L-R	5-11	185	32	Seattle	.203	.280	172	10	35	7	0	11	0					
Campanis, Jim	R-R	6-1	200	24	AA	.248	.322	287	36	96	10	0	15	49	0				
Howard, Chris	R-R	6-2	200	26	AAA	.246	.288	293	32	72	12	1	8	36	1				
					Seattle	.167	.286	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	1				

CATCHERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					
Pirk, Greg	R-R	6-5	225	21	A-AA	.289	.325	478	52	138	29	1	20	94	4				
Valle, David	R-R	6-2	200	31	Seattle	.194	.286	324	38	63	8	1	8	32	0				
INFELDERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					
Amaral, Rich	R-R	6-0	175	30	AAA	.346	.433	347	79	120	26	2	3	36	30				
					Seattle	.063	.167	16	2	1	0	0	0	0					
Boone, Bret	R-R	5-10	180	22	AA	.255	.357	475	64	121	18	1	19	75	9				
Cochrane, Dave	S-R	6-2	180	29	AAA	.321	.347	190	25	61	11	0	3	27	2				
					Seattle	.247	.286	178	16	44	13	0	2	22	0				
Martinez, Edgar	R-R	5-11	175	29	Seattle	.307	.405	544	98	167	35	1	14	52	0				
Martinez, Tino	L-R	6-2	205	24	AAA	.326	.428	442	94	144	34	5	18	86	3				
					Seattle	.205	.272	112	11	23	2	0	4	9	0				
O'Brien, Pete	L-L	6-2	195	34	Seattle	.248	.300	560	58	139	29	3	17	88	0				
Reynolds, Harold	S-R	5-11	165	31	Seattle	.254	.332	631	95	160	34	6	3	57	28				
Schaefer, Jeff	R-R	5-10	170	31	Seattle	.250	.272	164	19	41	7	1	1	11	3				
Vizquel, Omar	S-R	5-9	165	24	Seattle	.230	.302	426	42	98	16	4	1	41	7				
OUTFIELDERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					
Briley, Greg	L-R	5-8	165	26	Seattle	.260	.307	381	39	99	17	3	2	26	23				
Buhner, Jay	R-R	6-3	205	27	Seattle	.244	.337	406	64	99	14	4	2	77	0				
Cotto, Henry	R-R	6-2	180	31	Seattle	.305	.347	177	35	54	6	2	6	23	16				
Griffey Jr., Ken	L-L	6-3	200	22	Seattle	.327	.399	548	76	179	42	1	22	100	18				
Lennon, Patrick	R-R	6-2	200	23	AAA	.329	.400	416	75	137	29	5	15	74	12				
					Seattle	.125	.364	8	2	1	1	0	0	1	0				
Mitchell, Kevin	R-R	5-11	210	29	San Francisco	.256	.338	371	52	95	13	1	27	69	2				
Powell, Alonzo	R-R	6-2	190	27	AAA	.375	.452	192	45	72	18	7	7	43	2				
					Seattle	.216	.288	111	16	24	6	1	3	12	0				

Coaches — Gene Cline; Roger Hansen; Rusty Kuntz; Marty Martinez; Russ Nixon; Dan Warthen

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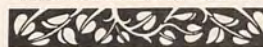


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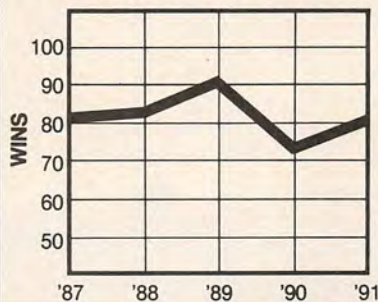


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KANSAS CITY ROYALS

1991 RECORD: 82-80 MANAGER: HAL McRAE STADIUM: ROYALS (40,625)

5-YEAR SCAN



Hal McRae remembers what the Royals once represented. They were aggressive, brash, always forcing the issue. They were winners, seven times in a 10-year period participating in postseason play, capped by the World Series title in 1985.

McRae knows, because he helped forge that style as a player in the 1970s and '80s. Acquired by Kansas City from Cincinnati after the 1972 season, he brought what baseball people refer to as the "National League way" to a four-year-old expansion club in the American League.

McRae found something entirely different last season upon returning to the franchise after a three-year absence. Summoned in late May to replace John Wathan as manager, McRae quickly discovered the Royals had become a morass of mediocrity. He salvaged what he could of the season, with a pledge from management that reconstruction was forthcoming.

Following a sixth-place finish for the second year in a row, after having finished as low as fifth only one time previously in franchise history, K.C. set about improving its waning offense. Knowing Danny Tartabull was out the door as a free agent, the Royals signed Wally Joyner, then landed one-third of their everyday lineup in the biggest deal in club history. Two-time Cy Young winner Bret Saberhagen was shipped to the Mets for Kevin McReynolds, Gregg Jefferies and Keith Miller.

When the December frenzy was completed, K.C. had a brand-new look. Centerfielder Brian McRae, son of the manager, and catcher Mike MacFarlane, if he holds off Brent Mayne, will take the same positions on Opening Day as in 1991. George Brett is back, too, but now is a full-time designated hitter. Otherwise, the cast is different. Is it better? Who

knows? But the Royals couldn't contend with what they had, and figured they had nothing to lose by trying something different.

PITCHING Trading the best pitcher in franchise history had its repercussions. Royals fans were outraged when Bret Saberhagen was sent to New York, and the pitcher reacted as if he had been slapped in the face. "If he wins four more Cy Youngs and we finish sixth, what good does it do us?" asked general manager Herk Robinson. Point well taken. But don't blame the fans for being skeptical. Over the years, this franchise has squandered the likes of Tom Candiotti, Jose DeJesus, Danny Jackson, David Cone, Greg Hibbard and Melido Perez, and has absolutely nothing

to show for them. No question Saberhagen will be missed. With him, the staff ERA last season was 3.92, sixth best in the AL. That isn't the ERA of an imposing staff, given the benefits of working half the time in the most pitcher-friendly park in the league.

STARTING PITCHING When the Royals used their first pick in the 1987 June draft on righthander Kevin Appier, the organizational report said he had "Saberhagen-type" potential. Guy Hansen, who scouted and signed both Appier and Saberhagen, better hope the potential translates into results. Hansen is entering his first full season as the Royals pitching coach, and his job will be much easier if Appier can fill the void created by the trade of Saberhagen.

Appier has a fastball with sinking and darting action, a slider and an off-speed pitch. When the whole package is working, he can dominate, as he did on occasion in his 1990 rookie season, producing the fourth-best ERA (2.76) in the AL. However, he has to learn to trust his stuff. Rather than try to make every pitch a work of art, he can aim for the middle of the plate, and the natural movement on his ball will do the rest. Appier had major clashes with Pat Dobson, who was fired as pitching coach last August. The unrest was reflected in Appier's first half (5-7, 3.88 ERA), but he reaffirmed his ability after the All-Star break (8-3, 2.98) and seemed totally relaxed once Hansen replaced Dobson.

The Royals expected a lot more from righthander Mike Boddicker than he delivered last season after signing as a free agent. He didn't finesse his way through lineups with the deft touch that had made him an invaluable starter in Baltimore and Boston. With a 12-12 record, Boddicker attained a double-figure victory total for the ninth straight season, but failed to work at least 200 innings for the first time since 1983. Cavernous Royals Stadium was expected to be a great aid to Boddicker, yet he had a 4.07 ERA at home. Boddicker has to make constant adjustments during a game, changing speeds, altering arm angles and even manufacturing pitches. At 34, he has to prove he's still clever enough to be effective.

Much rests on the repaired right shoulder of Mark Gubicza. Do not dwell on his 9-12 record, 5.68 ERA or .308 opponents' batting average of last season. The fact he was activated May 14 was a tribute to Gubicza's tenacity. Having undergone surgery on his rotator cuff in August 1990, he wasn't expected back until midseason.

Gubicza was spent long before the season



Kevin Appier

ended, losing seven of his final nine decisions. And he didn't have the consistent bat-deadening fastball and slider of his pre-surgery years. However, there were glimpses of the old Gubicza, and his arm held up well enough that he never missed his work between starts. Gubicza should be back to full strength this season, though his violent delivery — scouts grimace while watching him pitch — causes some to wonder how long it will be before he's hurt again.

The fourth and fifth slots in the rotation will be determined in spring training. The candidates are Luis Aquino, Tom Gordon and former Cy Young Award-winning closer Mark Davis. Aquino has a hard sinker that deadens bats and an outstanding change-up. He did whatever he was told last season, and did it effectively (2-0, 2.34 ERA in 20 relief appearances; 6-4, 3.85 in 18 starts). Aquino's right arm is so resilient that using him in only one role probably limits his value.

Davis has been one of the all-time free-agent busts, delivering only seven saves the past two years and reduced to mop-up duty at times. Inability to throw his terrific curve for strikes quickly left him naked emotionally in game-on-the-line situations. The merciful Royals occasionally have placed Davis on the disabled list with trumped-up injuries, hoping that backing him away from the fray would help him re-focus. A torn fingernail on his left index finger afforded such an opportunity last season. During his seven weeks away, Davis made six starts for Triple-A Omaha and felt so comfortable that the Royals figured — what the heck — anything that might recoup some of their \$16 million was worth a shot. In five late-season starts for K.C., Davis mixed his curve well with a solid fastball and deceptive change, delivering quality work each time.

Gordon has the pitches to be a quality starter, but his approach leaves much to be desired. He falls in love with his curve, one of the best hooks in the league, and tends to forget his plus fastball. That works once through the order, but the second time around hitters have solved his pattern. Gordon's ERAs last season were 2.73 in relief and 4.77 as a starter. If he wants to start, the little righthander not only has to use his fastball more, but knock hitters off the plate with it.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

RELIEF PITCHING While Mark Davis' collapse could have been disastrous for the Royals, they've made do just fine with righthander Jeff Montgomery in the closer's role.

There is nothing smooth about Montgomery. He appears to be allergic to a 1-2-3 inning and frequently pitches behind in the count. He can't blow away hitters with his fastball, having to rely on a slurve as his out pitch. About the only thing Montgomery has in common with a prototypical closer is that he gets the job done, converting 33 of 39 save opportunities last season.

Montgomery will have experienced help from Luis Aquino or Tom Gordon, depending on what happens with the rotation. The third righthander figures to be rookie Joel Johnston, who roared into the big leagues last September, giving up only one run and nine hits while striking out 21 in 22 innings. Johnston's success was a bit of a surprise, considering he arrived with a 5.02 ERA over four minor league seasons. He throws 88-90 mph with sinking action and has a hard slider, but until last year Johnston's pitches weren't diffi-

cult for hitters to pick up. By shortening his release point, he added deception to his delivery. Johnston wouldn't be the first guy to buoy hopes in September and fall flat in April, although scouts say he has enough arm to be for real.

Unheralded Mike Magnante emerged last season as a dependable lefthanded setup man. He was up from the minors for good by mid-June and got better as the season progressed, alleviating concern about how well he would hold up, considering he wears braces on both knees. Using a tailing fastball as his out pitch against righthanders and a change-up for lefties, Magnante yielded just eight earned runs in his final 40 innings. He has to work his fastball in and out and keep his pitches down to be effective.

Other possibilities are Rusty Meacham, whom Detroit manager Sparky Anderson compared to Dennis Eckersley last spring and let go on waivers last fall; Archie Corbin, a strong-armed, Dwight Gooden look-alike; and fast-fading prospects Hipolito Pichardo and Hector Wagner.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

CATCHING A not-so-funny thing happened to Mike Macfarlane last season while he was establishing himself as a legitimate No. 1 catcher. He suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee in a home-plate collision with Toronto's Joe Carter. The tear was surgically repaired July 18, disabling him until the final weeks of the season.

Macfarlane throws well — he stopped 15 of 36 runners in 1991 — and has gained the confidence of pitchers who once questioned his ability to call an intelligent game. He never had hit more than six homers in a season before popping 13 in only 267 at-bats last year. The new-found power was a result of Macfarlane changing his approach. Instead of looking for a first-pitch fastball to pull down the left-field line, he started going with the pitch and driving the ball to right-center.

While Macfarlane was mending, rookie Brent Mayne was proving to be a solid major league receiver. He moves slickly behind the plate and makes a quick, accurate peg to second base. Though not as productive a hitter as Macfarlane, Mayne has some line-drive strength in his left-side bat. It would make for a fine platoon, but one likely will be traded, since Bob Melvin and Tim Spehr are capable backups.

Melvin already is well-liked in Kansas City. Although nobody can quite figure out how they did it, the Royals not only were able to dump Storm Davis' \$2.3 contract on Baltimore, but also convinced the Orioles to trade a breathing player for him.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

INFIELD Shortstop Dave Howard is the only holdover from the infield the Royals were using when last season ended.

The key to Kansas City's massive winter makeover was the long-running feud between Wally Joyner and Jackie Autry, wife of California owner Gene Autry, that led to a silly squabble over how \$500,000 of a four-year contract would be paid to Joyner. In a snit, Joyner's agent made the Royals an offer they couldn't refuse — his client for one year at \$4 million. With Joyner in tow, the Royals decided to go for broke with the offense, trading Bret Saberhagen for three everyday players.

Joyner's line-drive swing is a perfect fit in Royals Stadium, where the turf is fast and the alleys deep. Coming off the first .300 season of his career, he is the lefthanded-hitting producer the Royals need to take pressure off George Brett. Joyner was a .331 hitter with runners in scoring position last year, and had 96 RBIs despite getting only one at-bat in the final 15 games because of a nagging ankle injury. He showed a sudden comfort against

Brian McRae



lefties (.275, up 49 points from 1990). One of the league's smoothest glove men, he will have more opportunity than ever to show off his fine range.

The new second baseman is Keith Miller, who can provide offense at the bottom of the order and endear himself to Hal McRae with his hellbent approach to the game. Miller looks for middle out pitches that he can take to right field, leaving him vulnerable inside. Playing regularly, he finally will have a chance at the 35 to 40 bases that scouts say he is capable of stealing. He has plenty of arm and range for turf second base, and is willing to take a hit on the double-play pivot. Losing out to Miller is Terry Shumpert, who struggled as a 1991 rookie. He is flashy afield, but has a bleak future if he doesn't cease trying to pull every pitch.

Howard opened last season on the bench, was sent to the minors in May, then gained a full-time role after McRae was hired because Kurt Stillwell didn't play enough defense to suit the new manager. Howard has requisite tools at short. He moves smoothly and has enough arm to complete plays from the hole. A switch-hitter, he routinely gets the bat knocked out of his hands from either side. Howard has to make his outs productive by advancing runners and squeezing. He can run, but isn't on base enough to make a difference.

Gregg Jefferies was a bust at second, short and third with the Mets, but has to play somewhere. The Royals would like to use him at third, with left field the second option. A switch-hitter, Jefferies has one of the prettiest swings in the game, especially from the left side. He knows the strike zone, is not easily fooled, pounds the ball into the gaps, and can jerk a ball over the right-field fence. An above-average runner, he is worth 25 stolen bases a year. Jefferies lives to hit, and his defense has suffered the neglect. He has enough range and arm to be adequate at third, though his hands are stiff. Whether he's the spoiled-rotten cry-baby his Mets teammates made him out to be remains to be seen. Things sometimes get blown out of proportion in New York.

Kevin Seitzer is still around, though he dropped out of sight last season after McRae came aboard. Once an opposite-field .300 hitter with no speed, Seitzer now is just an oppo-

site-field hitter with no speed. McRae couldn't live with that and Seitzer's stationary defense. Seitzer had offseason surgery on both kneecaps, so perhaps good health will enable him to make a better impression.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.0

OUTFIELD Brian McRae is just about everything his manager could want his son to be in center field. He is quick, plays shallow, has a strong arm and fears no wall. What's more, McRae is a leadoff hitter who drives the ball well enough to regard him as an eventual No. 3 batter. A switch-hitter, he's much more confident on the right side, but that should even out once McRae realizes he has to line the ball the opposite way from the left side to keep from getting jammed. Last season he batted .294 righthanded, .245 lefthanded. McRae runs well enough to steal 20 bases a year.

Kevin McReynolds, a leftfielder with the Mets, will play right for his new club. He shouldn't have any problems adjusting. Though others have stronger arms, McReynolds gets to the ball quickly and throws as accurately as anyone. At the plate, the Royals can expect a cleanup hitter who will fill the alleys with doubles, go deep in either direction when he gets his pitch, and bear down in the clutch. McReynolds looks for a pitch to pull early in the count, then is willing to take what's offered. He screws himself into slumps by chasing breaking balls. A one-gait type, McReynolds never has been the lead horse, but certainly can help pull the wagon.

If Gregg Jefferies fits at third base, the Royals can be comfortable with a platoon of Jim Eisenreich and Gary Thurman in left field. Eisenreich isn't particularly selective at the plate, rarely drawing a walk, but hits shots from alley to alley with his quick left-side swing. He's a dependable flychaser and rarely makes a mistake with his average arm. Thurman, once considered a top prospect, has become adept at spraying the ball around, is a base-stealing threat, and can play any of the three outfield positions.

Chris Gwynn was dying to get out of L.A. for a shot at playing regularly. He might have gotten it except for the Royals' decision

to pull back Eisenreich from the free-agent market. Gwynn is a valuable left-side bat off the bench, but doesn't provide a long-ball threat.

The odd man out is Kirk Gibson, done in by a fly-ball stroke in a huge yard. The Royals could have lived with his defensive shortcomings had he made adjustments at the plate. If they can't trade him, expect Gibson to be released.

DESIGNATED HITTER George Brett, who turns 39 in May, knows he has to accept this role if he is to enhance his Hall of Fame chances. Brett moved to DH after returning from a knee injury last May. Never really able to use his lower half for drive in his swing, he batted a career-worst .255. The last time Brett was this embarrassed, for hitting .282 in 1989, he came back with his third batting title. This comeback likely will be staged from the fifth spot in the order, with Wally Joyner expected to dislodge Brett from his long-held No. 3 slot.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

MANAGEMENT Hal McRae played as aggressively as anyone of his era, and takes the same approach to managing. He wants to push the game offensively, forcing the other team to make mistakes. Always a realist, he acknowledges his limited expertise in pitching and will rely heavily on Guy Hansen to run the staff. McRae won't ignore transgressions, but is not the type to carry a grudge, which earns instant respect from his players.

General manager Herk Robinson has assembled an advisory staff with limited on-field experience, so maybe his willingness to take gambles is a case of fans carrying out their Rotisserie League fantasies. In two years on the job, Robinson has ignored the conservative ways of the Royals' past, grabbing free agents and swinging trades, including the blockbuster with the Mets. Then again, the Royals had to try something, because their farm system is bone-dry, crippled by the loss of key scouts in recent years.

GRADE (max. 10): 6.0

T.Q.33.0

PITCHERS														INFIELDERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OBA	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB					
Appier, Kevin	R-R	6-2	200	24	Kansas City	13-10	3.42	34	0	208	205	61	158	255	Berry, Sean	R-R	5-11	210	26	AAA	.264	.349	368	62	97	21	9	11	54	8			
Aquino, Luis	R-R	6-1	195	26	Kansas City	8-4	3.44	38	3	157	152	47	80	253					Kansas City	.133	.212	60	5	8	3	0	0	1	0				
Boddicker, Mike	R-R	5-11	185	34	Kansas City	12-12	4.08	30	0	181	188	59	79	272	Brett, George	R-R	6-0	205	38	Kansas City	.255	.327	505	77	129	40	2	10	61	2			
Corbin, Archie	R-R	6-4	190	24	AA	8-8	4.66	28	0	156	139	90	166	238	Cole, Stu	R-R	6-1	175	26	AAA	.261	.325	441	64	115	13	7	3	39	11			
					Kansas City	0-0	3.86	2	0	2	3	2	1	300					Kansas City	.143	.333	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0				
Davis, Mark	L-L	6-4	210	31	Kansas City	6-3	4.45	29	1	63	55	39	47	240	Conine, Jeff	R-R	6-1	220	25	AAA	.257	.359	171	23	44	9	1	3	15	0			
Gordon, Tom	R-R	5-9	180	24	Kansas City	9-14	3.87	45	1	158	129	87	167	221	Harmelin, Bob	L-L	6-0	230	24	AAA	.189	.272	127	13	24	3	1	4	19	0			
Gubicza, Mark	R-R	6-5	225	29	Kansas City	9-12	5.68	26	0	133	168	42	89	308	Howard, David	S-R	6-0	165	25	AAA	.122	.265	41	2	5	0	0	0	2	1			
Johnston, Joel	R-R	6-4	220	25	AAA	4-7	5.21	47	8	74	60	42	63	221					Kansas City	.216	.267	236	20	51	7	0	1	17	3				
					Kansas City	1-0	0.40	13	0	22	9	9	21	120	Jefferies, Gregg	L-R	5-10	180	24	New York (NL)	.272	.336	486	59	132	19	2	9	62	26			
Magnante, Mike	L-L	6-1	180	26	AAA	6-1	3.02	10	0	66	53	23	50	225	Joyner, Wally	S-L	6-2	203	29	California	.301	.360	551	79	166	34	3	21	96	2			
					Kansas City	0-1	2.45	38	0	55	55	23	42	262	Miller, Keith	R-R	5-11	180	28	New York (NL)	.280	.345	275	41	77	22	1	4	23	14			
Maldonado, Carlos	R-R	6-1	215	25	AAA	1-1	4.28	41	9	61	67	42	46	288	Seltzer, Kevin	R-R	5-11	190	30	Kansas City	.265	.350	234	28	62	11	3	1	25	4			
					Kansas City	0-0	8.22	5	0	8	11	9	1	333	Shumpert, Terry	R-R	5-11	190	25	Kansas City	.217	.283	369	45	80	16	4	5	34	17			
Meacham, Rusty	R-R	6-2	165	24	AAA	-9-7	3.09	26	2	125	117	40	70	249					AAA	.301	.353	359	45	108	24	3	13	64	6				
					Detroit	2-1	5.20	10	0	28	35	11	14	315	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL <th>Age</th> <th>1991 Club</th> <th>Avg.</th> <th>OBP</th> <th>AB</th> <th>R</th> <th>H</th> <th>2B</th> <th>3B</th> <th>HR</th> <th>RBI</th> <th>SB</th>	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Moeller, Dennis	R-L	6-2	195	24	AA-AAA	11-8	2.95	24	0	131	122	61	105	246	Clark, David	L-L	6-2	210	29	AAA	.200	.273	10	1	2	0	0	0	1	0			
Montgomery, Jeff	R-R	5-11	180	30	Kansas City	4-4	2.90	67	33	90	83	28	77	246					Kansas City	.301	.333	375	47	113	22	3	2	47	5				
Pichardo, Hipolito	R-R	6-1	160	22	AA	3-11	4.27	34	0	99	116	38	75	294	Eisenreich, Jim	L-L	5-11	195	32	Kansas City	.236	.341	462	81	109	17	6	16	55	18			
Pierce, Ed	L-L	6-1	185	23	AA	5-11	3.84	31	0	136	136	61	90	259	Gibson, Chris	L-L	6-3	225	34	Kansas City	.252	.301	139	18	35	5	1	5	22	1			
Wagner, Hector	R-R	6-3	200	23	AAA	5-6	3.44	17	0	86	88	38	36	264	Gwynn, Kirk	L-L	6-0	210	27	Los Angeles	.318	.396	381	54	121	18	5	9	58	14			
					Kansas City	1-1	7.20	2	0	10	16	3	5	348	Koslofski, Brian	L-R	5-8	165	25	AA-AAA	.261	.288	629	86	164	28	9	8	64	20			
															McRae, Brian	S-R	6-0	185	24	Kansas City	.259	.322	522	65	135	32	1	16	74	6			
CATCHERS														OUTFIELDERS																			
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB				
Macfarlane, Mike	R-R	6-1	205	27	Kansas City	.277	.330	267	34	74	16	2	13	41	1					New York (NL)	.259	.322	522	65	135	32	1	16	74	6			
Mayne, Brent	L-R	6-1	190	23	Kansas City	.251	.315	231	22	58	8	0	3	31	2					R-R	6-1	.190	21	.210	.322	485	67	102	14	2	1	23	61
Melvin, Bob	R-R	6-4	205	30	Baltimore	.250	.279	228	11	57	10	0	1	23	0					R-R	6-0	.210	24	.257	.318	346	35	89	18	2	6	39	2
Spehr, Tim	R-R	6-2	205	25	AAA	.274	.356	215	27	59	14	2	6	26	3					Kansas City	.273	.333	33	4	9	1	0	3	4	0			
															Thurman, Gary	R-R	5-10	175	27	Kansas City	.277	.320	184	24	51	9	0	2	13	15			

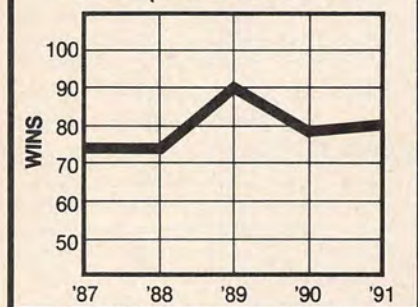
Coaches — Glenn Ezell; Guy Hansen; Bruce Kison; Adrian Garrett; Lynn Jones; Lee May

Coaches — Glenn Ezell; Guy Hansen; Bruce Kison; Adrian Garrett; Lynn Jones; Lee May

CALIFORNIA ANGELS

1991 RECORD: 81-81 MANAGER: BUCK RODGERS STADIUM: ANAHEIM (64,593)

5-YEAR SCAN



The 1991 California Angels, the best last-place team in history, swaggered into the off-season, confident they finally had the man who could put Gene Autry back in the saddle again. Except for three half-pennants, Autry hasn't ridden a champion since Champion, his horse in his old Western movies.

The new man in charge is Whitey Herzog, whose genius in St. Louis enabled Gussie Busch to ride into three World Series in the 1980s atop a beer wagon drawn by Clydesdales.

Herzog's first priority was revamping an offense that ranked 13th in the AL in runs. His intentions were to re-sign Wally Joyner and add free agents Bobby Bonilla and Otis Nixon, and maybe even Danny Tartabull. The White Rat not only went 0 for 4, he also lost Kirk McCaskill as a free agent and spent the winter trying to trade Dick Schofield, the free agent who did return. Dave Parker and Dave Winfield, dumped earlier by Herzog to make room for the new wave, must have been grinning.

What's left is an Orange County haven for the infirm. Lance Parrish and Gary Gaetti are almost toast, and new guys Von Hayes and Hubie Brooks show a lot of miles. The top three starters and closer, as a group, are unrivaled in the major leagues, but who's going to fill out the staff? Well, Bert Blyleven has been invited to spring training, along with people like Neil Allen, Ray Searage, Pat Perry and Willie Fraser.

This horse might be headed for the glue factory.

PITCHING The staff is a four-man show. Lefties Jim Abbott, Chuck Finley and Mark Langston are as formidable as any 1-2-3 in the majors, and righthander Bryan Harvey arguably is the most dominating closer in the game. It's not enough. The Angels led the American League West last season as late as July 3, but a month later were 10 games behind. The arms faltered, compiling a 4.22 ERA during a 9-19 slide, and no help was forthcoming



Bryan Harvey

ing from the offense, which produced two or fewer runs in 62 games last season.

STARTING PITCHING The Big Three won more games (55), made more starts (102) and pitched more innings (717) than any other AL trio. Problem was, the Angels had to play 60 other games. Kirk McCaskill made 30 starts, losing 19. The other 30 were divided among five pitchers who produced a 5-20 record and 6.16 ERA, and averaged fewer than five innings. The most promising of the quintet, lefty Kyle Abbott, was shipped to Philadelphia in a deal last December for Von Hayes.

After years of merely throwing, Mark Langston finally became a pitcher last season. With 19 victories, he was the Angels' biggest winner since Nolan Ryan in 1977. The key to Langston's transformation was walking fewer than 100 for the first time since 1985. By shortening a leg kick so exaggerated he virtually had been pushing off with the tips of his

right toes, Langston improved his mechanics considerably.

Langston's fastball is above average when he needs it to be, and his curve and straight change-up are superb pitches. When he stays ahead in the count and doesn't overthrow, few pitchers are more dominating. He helps himself, too. Langston is the best fielding pitcher in the AL and has a quick, sidearm flip to first base that catches a lot of runners napping.

Jim Abbott had a disappointing 1990 sophomore season and got off to an 0-4 start last year. But he went 18-7 the rest of the way and finished with a 2.89 ERA, fourth best in the AL. The Angels were right: Abbott was able to learn his craft in the major leagues without losing confidence.

Abbott brought a 93-mph fastball and quick slider with him from college, but didn't have an off-speed pitch. Last year he began throwing a straight change-up and curve for strikes, and learned a cut fastball that runs in on right-

handed batters. Some scouts said Abbott was the best pitcher in the league by the end of last season, though he still needs to become more aggressive against lefthanded swingers, who hit him at a .303 clip. Abbott limited righties to a .233 average. His missing right hand is a non-issue. Abbott is quick off the mound to field bunts, and has made only three errors the past two years.

Finley, an 18-game winner each of the past two seasons, persisted through a toe injury last year that robbed 3 to 4 mph from his fastball. He can throw 90 mph, but doesn't try to be a power pitcher. Finley is interested in getting ahead in the count, then going to his sharp-breaking forkball, which moves away from righthanders. He mixes in a curve and change-up, and hides all of his pitches well.

Abbott and Finley are fierce competitors who push themselves incessantly and never make excuses. It must be catching. Langston has a reputation for fading in tough situations, but scouts said he didn't fidget nearly as much last year when faced with adversity.

Righthander Don Robinson, assuming he hasn't gotten too fat to waddle through the clubhouse door, figures to be the fourth starter. Robinson, who turns 35 in June, hasn't taken care of himself and has had surgery seven times. His knees look as if he's been in a knife fight with midgets. Robinson is a battler, leading with his heavy sinker and mixing in assorted junk from different arm angles and at various speeds. He's been on the decline the past two years in San Francisco, but if nothing else, Robinson is a good-humor man and probably can help the Angels' woeful offense as a pinch-hitter. He has 13 career homers.

Righthander Joe Grahe is first in line for the fifth spot. A soft-tosser with guile and guts, he goes after hitters, moves the ball around and changes speeds. Grahe can baffle a lineup with his curve and change-up. Another possibility is righthander Scott Lewis, who began last season as the No. 5 man, but was in awe of big league hitters. His fastball lacks movement, but if he keeps it down and gets his tight curve over the plate, Lewis can slip through the order a couple of times.

GRADE (max. 10): 8.0

RELIEF PITCHING Bryan Harvey had been a 25-save man for two years before soaring to another level last season. He always has thrown hard, but had a backward approach to pitching and a casual attitude toward conditioning. Told to lose eight pounds before reporting for spring training last year, he showed up 16 pounds lighter. Being in shape helped Harvey develop more consistency with his mechanics, and — presto! — an intimidating closer was born.

Harvey converted 46 of 52 save opportunities, compiled a 1.60 ERA and held opponents to a .178 average. He issued only 14 unintentional walks and struck out 101 in 79 innings. Harvey's 89-mph forkball that dives into the dirt at the last instant might be the most unhittable pitch in the major leagues. But until last year, he threw too many forkballs early in the count and batters took them for balls. Reversing his approach, Harvey used his riding 95-mph fastball to get ahead, then went to the pitch that hitters can't touch. Over the past three years, 60 percent of the batters who have gone to two strikes against Harvey have struck out.

Righthander Mark Eichhorn has enabled the Angels to save Harvey for the ninth inning.



Jim Abbott

His career on the rocks when he joined the Angels two years ago, Eichhorn raised his arm angle slightly, to a few degrees above submarine, and rediscovered his sinker. Ever since, he has kept the ball down and in the strike zone. Eichhorn uses a forkball against lefthanded swingers and a slurve against righties. In save situations last year, he kept 25 leads intact, the most "holds" in the major leagues. Once around the order is Eichhorn's limit.

Righthander Chuck Crim, acquired from Milwaukee during the offseason, has averaged 66 appearances and 106 innings for his five major league seasons. He was worse for the wear last year, posting a 4.63 ERA and being pounded at a .305 clip. Crim's strength always has been his willingness to challenge hitters. He throws only 85 mph, but his fastball has enough sinking action to set up a slider, clearly his best pitch, and a curve that he will use anytime in the count. If he's sound, Crim can work frequently and for as long as four innings.

Lefty Scott Bailes can throw 88 mph, but his fastball is just for show. He lives with his slider, running it inside to righthanders, away from lefties. Batters pounded Bailes for a .315 average in 1990, but slipped to .218 last year.

Other lefty candidates include Cliff Young, who has a 90-something fastball but has shown little else, and 30-year-old rookie Tim Fortugno, who has averaged 11.5 strikeouts and 6.3 walks per nine innings in six minor league seasons. Fortugno was acquired from Milwaukee in the Rule 5 draft last December.

GRADE (max. 10): 7.0

CATCHING If his contract didn't have a year to run, Lance Parrish undoubtedly

would have been sent off with Dave Winfield and Dave Parker. Parrish has been at the top of his profession, but after 15 major league seasons behind the plate, his career is close to rigor mortis. He still can throw, gunning down 37 percent of the runners who tested his arm last year, the third-best mark in the AL. But his reactions are so slow that pitchers don't like throwing to him. Parrish's 19 passed balls last season not only led the majors, but were more than 18 team totals.

Parrish still can hit an inside mistake pitch out of the park, which accounts for his 19 homers last year. But high heat eats him up, and since Parrish refuses to go the opposite way, pitchers have an easy time getting him out with breaking stuff away, accounting for his .216 average and the worst strikeout ratio (1 per 3.4 at-bats) of his career. Parrish constantly changed his stance, groping for bat speed that is gone.

The Angels might have an alternative to Parrish if not for the witless decision to keep Johnorton on the bench for much of the past two seasons instead of giving him at-bats in the minors. Angels pitchers prefer to work to Orton, who has soft hands, calls a good game and throws adequately. But his bat is slow, and he's had scant opportunity to learn adjustments. **GRADE (max. 10): 4.0**

INFIELD The Angels had five first-round draft choices in 1986. The only one remaining in the organization is Lee Stevens, who will be given another chance this spring to show he can fill Wally Joyner's shoes. Subbing for the injured Joyner in 1990, Stevens quickly discovered that his long, looping swing was rife with holes to be exploited by major league

pitchers.

Back in Triple-A last season, he concentrated on driving the ball through the middle and to the opposite field. Stevens' left-side swing is a bit tighter now, and he remains a long-ball threat to all fields. Scouts think he probably is ready to play against righthanders, but advise going slowly with him against lefties. Stevens won't make anyone forget Joyner around the bag, though he has sure hands and some niftiness.

The Angels hoped that a change of scenery would revive third baseman Gary Gaetti, but he apparently is in irreversible decline. "His better days are behind him; you don't see the drive there anymore," said a scout. "You can throw a high fastball past him now that he used to crush, and he seems to be fooled more by breaking pitches." Though he's lost some lateral range, Gaetti, 33, remains one of the most dependable third basemen in the AL, sure-handed and accurate with his strong arm.

Many teams make do at shortstop with a lot less than Dick Schofield. He's quick to the ball, has soft hands and an accurate arm, and has a superb instinct for playing hitters. Why do the Angels want to unload him? Several reasons. They've tired of the sore hamstrings and groin injuries that keep him out of the lineup, have decided he never will develop a clue at the plate and, probably most important, figure that Gary DiSarcina has as much to offer and costs a lot less. Schofield continually changes his approach at the plate. One time he's up there with an inside-out swing, the next time he's trying to jerk the ball. Once a plus runner, he's lost a step, further diminishing his offensive worth.

DiSarcina is Spike Owen with a bit stronger arm. He makes the routine plays, can move runners with his bat, might be able to hit .240 to .260, and has fine instincts on the bases. DiSarcina can play second and third, too, so he will have a role.

It's easy to see why Luis Sojo was shifted from shortstop to second base two years ago. He barely gets by with his quickness and range on the right side of the bag. Sojo's hands are sure, and he's efficient turning the double play. Sojo bats second in the order, though he is a below-average runner and somewhat of a free-swinging. But he usually puts the ball in play

and is one of the best bunters in the league. Sojo led the AL in sacrifices (19) last year.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

OUTFIELD As the big-name free agents shunned the Angels during the offseason, California was left with the sobering thought of having to send Luis Polonia back out to left field and Junior Felix to center.

Polonia is one of the true top-of-the-order ignitors in the league. He's impossible to defend, slapping high fastballs from line to line and running them into doubles and triples. Given a chance against lefthanded pitching last year, Polonia didn't hit a lot (.238) but wasn't handcuffed, either. Though a bit reckless, he's a demon on the bases, the only player in the majors last season to account for more than half of his team's stolen bases (48 of 94). If only Polonia could be the DH. In left field, he misplays line drives, overruns fly balls, and probably could get the ball back to the infield quicker if he ran it in.

Felix, whom scouts say is closer to 30 than his listed 24, is a gifted athlete. A switch-hitter with iron and quickness in his wrists, he can drive the ball with power from either side. Felix might be the fastest runner on the team, and has an above-average arm. However, he has no idea at the plate, hacking at everything and rarely seeing a strike because it isn't necessary to throw him one. Felix doesn't have the best fly-chasing instincts, but could be an adequate outfielder if he would apply himself. A moody guy who hangs by himself, Felix was quick to get into the Angels' doghouse last season. Disabled twice because of a strained right calf, he played in only three games between June 2 and Aug. 25, then provoked manager Buck Rodgers when he refused to pinch-run in a September game.

Von Hayes, acquired from Philadelphia last December, will be the rightfielder — if he's not the centerfielder or first baseman. Hayes, 33, missed more than half of last season because of a broken right arm. He has played 130 games in only one of the past four years, and hasn't had an 80-RBI season since 1987. A left-side hitter with diminishing bat speed, he likes the ball down and in, and takes a lot of close pitches outside. He used to handle breaking balls on the inner half fairly well, but

scouts aren't certain if that still holds. Hayes makes all the expected plays in the outfield and has plenty of arm.

Shawn Abner is a true centerfielder with a fine arm, but doesn't hit enough to play regularly. His cumbersome swing is a pitcher's delight.

DESIGNATED HITTER Hubie Brooks, acquired from the Mets last December, is best off as a DH. He has no range left in the outfield, and his arm has regressed. Brooks, 35, never has learned to lay off bad breaking pitches, but remains a dangerous mistake-hitter. He can be pitched up and in, but the margin for error is slim. Always a tougher out with runners in scoring position, Brooks will use an inside-out swing to get a runner home. He's hit more homers the past four years (70) than in his previous eight big league seasons.

GRADE (max. 10): 4.0

MANAGEMENT Buck Rodgers was hired as manager last August, a month before Whitey Herzog agreed to become the general manager. They will have no trouble working together. Both prefer an aggressive offense, emphasizing contact and speed, which is why Rod Carew was hired to work with the hitters. Rodgers is a master at handling a pitching staff, and anything he doesn't know, he can find out from Herzog.

Considering that Gene Autry promised to dig as deep into his saddlebags as necessary, Herzog's failure to land any premier free agents was a bit unsettling to the organization. It wasn't all the White Rat's fault, however. Granted, he lost out on Danny Tartabull by publicly ripping Tartabull's agent. But Jackie Autry, Gene's wife, ran off Wally Joyner. And when Bobby Bonilla and his wife came to visit, instead of selling the organization, crunching numbers and generally putting on the dog, the Autrys treated the Bonillas to an entire day at Gene's cowboy museum. It's still early, though. Nobody is better at putting together a team than Herzog. Give him time.

GRADE (max. 10): 5.5

T.Q.®32.5

PITCHERS														INFELDERS																	
B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	W-L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	OB	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB			
Abbott, Jim	L-L	6-3	210	24	California	18-11	2.89	34	0	243	222	73	158	244	DiSarcina, Gary	R-R	6-1	178	24	AAA	.310	.369	390	61	121	21	4	4	58	16	
Bailes, Scott	L-L	6-2	171	29	California	1-2	4.18	42	0	52	41	22	41	218					California	.211	.274	57	5	12	2	0	0	3	0		
Beasley, Chris	R-R	6-2	190	29	AAA	3-5	5.26	23	1	89	99	26	51	290	Flora, Kevin	R-R	6-0	180	22	AA	.285	.338	484	97	138	14	15	12	67	40	
					California	0-1	3.38	22	0	27	26	10	14	257					California	.125	.222	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Crim, Chuck	R-R	6-0	185	30	Milwaukee	8-5	4.63	29	3	91	115	25	39	305	Gaetti, Gary	R-R	6-0	200	33	California	.246	.293	586	58	144	22	1	18	66	5	
Eichhorn, Mark	R-R	6-3	210	31	California	3-3	1.98	70	1	82	63	13	49	219	Hill, Donnie	S-R	5-10	161	31	California	.239	.335	209	36	50	8	1	1	20	1	
Erb, Michael	R-R	6-4	210	26	AAA	1-0	3.76	31	5	41	39	23	26	253	Phillips, J.R.	L-L	6-1	185	21	A	.248	.332	471	64	117	22	2	20	70	15	
Finley, Chuck	L-L	6-6	214	29	California	18-9	3.80	34	0	227	205	101	171	244	Rose, Bobby	R-R	5-11	185	25	AAA	.242	.355	242	35	72	14	5	6	56	3	
Fortugno, Tim	L-L	6-0	185	30	AA-AAA	5-2	2.61	46	3	90	70	45	112	216					California	.277	.304	65	5	18	5	1	1	8	0		
Fraser, Willie	R-R	6-1	206	27	Toronto	0-2	6.15	13	0	26	33	11	12	303	Schofield, Dick	R-R	5-10	179	29	California	.225	.310	427	44	96	9	3	0	31	8	
					St. Louis	3-3	4.93	35	0	49	44	21	25	242	Sojo, Luis	R-R	5-11	174	26	California	.258	.295	364	38	94	14	1	3	20	4	
Grahe, Joe	R-R	6-0	200	24	AAA	9-3	4.01	14	0	94	121	30	55	311	Stevens, Lee	L-L	6-4	219	24	AAA	.314	.363	481	75	151	29	3	19	96	4	
					California	3-7	4.81	18	0	73	84	33	40	288					California	.293	.354	58	8	17	7	0	0	9	1		
Harvey, Bryan	R-R	6-2	212	28	California	2-4	1.60	67	46	79	51	17	101	178	OUTFIELDERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
Johnson, Dave	R-R	5-11	181	32	Baltimore	4-8	7.07	22	0	84	127	24	38	349	Abner, Shawn	R-R	6-1	194	25	San Diego	.165	.218	115	15	19	4	1	1	5	0	
Langston, Mark	R-L	6-2	184	31	California	19-8	3.00	34	0	246	190	96	183	215					California	.228	.257	101	12	23	6	1	2	9	1		
Lewis, Scott	R-R	6-3	178	26	AAA	3-9	4.50	17	0	110	132	26	87	295	Brooks, Hubie	R-R	6-0	205	35	New York (NL)	.238	.324	357	48	85	11	1	16	50	3	
					California	3-5	6.27	16	0	60	81	21	37	316	Curtis, Chad	R-R	5-10	175	23	AAA	.316	.389	431	81	136	28	7	9	61	46	
Robinson, Don	R-R	6-4	240	34	San Francisco	5-9	4.38	34	1	121	123	50	78	265	Davis, Mark	R-R	6-0	170	27	AAA	.278	.389	421	86	117	20	6	13	56	32	
Swingle, Paul	R-R	6-0	185	25	A	5-4	4.42	43	10	57	51	41	63	232					California	.000	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Young, Cliff	L-L	6-4	210	27	AAA	4-8	4.90	34	5	72	88	25	39	301	Edmonds, Jim	L-L	6-1	190	21	A	.294	.417	187	28	55	15	1	2	27	2	
					California	1-0	4.26	11	0	13	12	3	6	261	Felix, Junior	S-R	5-11	165	24	A	.359	.488	64	12	23	3	0	2	10	8	
Zappelli, Mark	R-R	6-0	160	25	AA-AAA	4-3	3.32	59	11	57	50	32	47	284					California	.283	.321	230	32	65	10	2	2	26	7		
CATCHERS	B-T	HL	WL	Age	1991 Club	Avg.	OBP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Hayes, Von	L-R	6-5	186	33	Philadelphia	.225	.303	284	43	64	15	1	0	21	9
Orton, John	R-R	6-1	192	26	AAA	.224	.322	245	39	55	14	1	5	32	5	Morris, John	L-L	6-1	185	31	Philadelphia	.220	.293	127	15	28	2	1	1	6	2
					California	.203	.313	69	7	14	4	0	0	3	0	Polonia, Luis	L-L	5-8	150	27	California	.296	.352	604	92	179	28	8	2	50	48
Parrish, Lance	R-R	6-3	224	35	California	.216	.285	402	38	87	12	0	19	51	0	Salmon, Tim	R-R	6-3	200	23	AA	.245	.372	465	100	114	26	4	23	94	12
Tingley, Ron	R-R	6-2	194	32	AAA	.291	.391	55	11	16	5	0	3	15	1																
					California	.200	.258	115	11	23	7	0	1	13	1																

Coaches — Rod Carew; Deron Johnson; Bobby Knoop; Marcel Lachemann; Ken Macha; Jimmie Reese; John Wathan

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'92 SCHEDULE



NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA	
Ap. 7.8	at HOU
Ap. 9,10,11,12	S.F.
Ap. 13,14,15	at CIN
Ap. 16,17,18,19	at LA
Ap. 20,21,22	at S.D.
Ap. 24,25,26	HOU
Ap. 27,28,29	CHI
My. 1,2,3	N.Y.
My. 4,5	at CHI
My. 6,7	at PIT
My. 8,9,10,11	at SLL
My. 12,13,14	PIT
My. 15,16,17	MON
My. 18,19,20	SLL
My. 22,23,24	at MON
My. 25,26,27	at PHI
My. 29,30,31	at N.Y.
My. 1,2,3	PHI
Ju. 5,6,7	at S.D.
Ju. 8,9,10	at LA
Ju. 12,13,14	S.D.
Ju. 15,16,17	LA
Ju. 18,19,20,21	CIN
Ju. 23,24	S.F.
Ju. 26,27,28	at CIN
Ju./Jy. 29,30,1	at S.F.
Jy. 3,4,5	CHI
Jy. 6,7,8	N.Y.
Jy. 9,10,11,12	at CHI
Jy. 16,17,18,19	at HOU
Jy. 20,21,22	at SLL
Jy. 24,25,26	PIT
Jy. 27,28,29	HOU
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2	at S.F.
Au. 4,5,6	CIN
Au. 7,8,9,10	LA
Au. 11,12,13	S.D.
Au. 14,15,16,17	at PIT
Au. 18,19,20	at MON
Au. 21,22,23	SLL
Au. 25,26,27	MON
Au. 28,29,30	at PHI
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	at N.Y.
Sp. 4,5,6	PHI
Sp. 7,8	LA
Sp. 9,10	CIN
Sp. 11,12,13	at HOU
Sp. 15,16,17	at CIN
Sp. 18,19,20	HOU
Sp. 21,22	at LA
Sp. 23,24	at S.F.
Sp. 25,26,27	at S.D.
Sp./Oc. 29,30,1	S.D.
Oc. 2,3,4	S.F.

CHICAGO	
Ap. 7.8,9	at PHI
Ap. 10,11,12	SLL
Ap. 14,15	at PIT
Ap. 17,18,19	at SLL
Ap. 20,21,22,23	PHI
Ap. 24,25,26	PIT
Ap. 27,28,29	at ATL
My. 1,2,3	at CIN
My. 4,5	ATL
My. 6,7	HOU
My. 8,9,10	CIN
My. 11,12,13	at HOU
My. 15,16,17	at S.F.
My. 18,19,20	at LA
My. 22,23,24	at S.D.
My. 25,26,27	S.F.
My. 29,30,31	LA
Ju. 1,2,3	S.D.
Ju. 5,6,7	at MON
Ju. 8,9,10	at SLL
Ju. 12,13,14	MON
Ju. 15,16,17	SLL
Ju. 18,19,20,21	at PHI
Ju. 22,23,24,25	at N.Y.
Ju. 26,27,28	PHI
Ju./Jy. 29,30,1	N.Y.
Jy. 3,4,5	at ATL
Jy. 6,7,8	CIN
Jy. 9,10,11,12	ATL
Jy. 16,17,18,19	at PIT
Jy. 20,21,22	at CIN
Jy. 24,25,26	at HOU
Jy. 27,28,29	PIT
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2	at N.Y.
Au. 4,5,6	at MON
Au. 7,8,9	N.Y.
Au. 10,11,12	MON
Au. 13,14,15,16	HOU
Au. 18,19,20	at S.F.
Au. 21,22,23	at LA
Au. 24,25,26	at S.D.
Au. 28,29,30	S.F.
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	MON
Sp. 4,5,6	S.D.
Sp. 7,8,9	at PIT
Sp. 10,11,12,13	at SLL
Sp. 14,15	N.Y.
Sp. 16,17	PHI
Sp. 18,19,20	SLL
Sp. 21,22	at N.Y.
Sp. 23,24	at PHI
Sp. 25,26,27	at MON
Sp. 28,29,30	PIT
Oc. 2,3,4	MON

CINCINNATI	
Ap. 6,7,8	S.D.
Ap. 9,10,11,12	at HOU
Ap. 13,14,15	ATL
Ap. 17,18,19	at S.F.
Ap. 20,21,22	at LA
Ap. 24,25,26	at S.D.
Ap. 28,29	PIT
My. 1,2,3	CHI
My. 4,5	at PIT
My. 6,7	N.Y.
My. 8,9,10	at CHI
My. 12,13	at SLL
My. 15,16,17	PHI
My. 18,19,20	at MON
My. 22,23,24	at PHI
My. 25,26,27	at N.Y.
My. 29,30,31	MON
Ju. 1,2,3	SLL
Ju. 4,5,6,7	at LA
Ju. 8,9,10	at S.F.
Ju. 12,13,14	LA
Ju. 15,16,17	S.F.
Ju. 18,19,20,21	at ATL
Ju. 22,23,24	HOU
Ju. 26,27,28	ATL
Ju./Jy. 29,30,1	at HOU
Jy. 3,4,5	at PIT
Jy. 6,7,8	at CHI
Jy. 9,10,11,12	PIT
Jy. 16,17,18,19	SLL
Jy. 20,21,22	CHI
Jy. 24,25,26,27	at SLL
Jy. 27,28,29	at S.D.
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2,3	HOU
Au. 4,5,6	at ATL
Au. 7,8,9	S.F.
Au. 10,11,12,13	LA
Au. 14,15,16	S.D.
Au. 17,18,19	at PHI
Au. 21,22,23	at MON
Au. 24,25,26	PHI
Au. 28,29,30	at N.Y.
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	MON
Sp. 4,5,6	N.Y.
Sp. 7,8	at HOU
Sp. 9,10	at ATL
Sp. 11,12,13	at S.D.
Sp. 15,16,17	ATL
Sp. 18,19,20	S.D.
Sp. 21,22	HOU
Sp. 23,24	at LA
Sp. 25,26,27	at S.F.
Sp./Oc. 29,30,1	LA
Oc. 2,3,4	S.F.

HOUSTON	
Ap. 7.8	ATL
Ap. 9,10,11,12	CIN
Ap. 13,14,15	LA
Ap. 17,18,19	S.D.
Ap. 20,21,22	S.F.
Ap. 24,25,26	at ATL
Ap. 28,29,30	at N.Y.
My. 1,2,3	PIT
My. 4,5	N.Y.
My. 6,7	at CHI
My. 8,9,10	at PIT
My. 11,12,13	CHI
My. 15,16,17	SLL
My. 18,19,20	at PHI
My. 22,23,24	at SLL
My. 25,26,27	at MON
My. 29,30,31	PHI
Ju. 1,2,3	MON
Ju. 4,5,6,7	CHI
Ju. 8,9,10	at S.D.
Ju. 12,13,14	S.F.
Ju. 15,16,17	S.D.
Ju. 19,20,21	LA
Ju. 22,23,24	at CIN
Ju. 25,26,27,28	at LA
Ju./Jy. 29,30,1	CIN
Jy. 3,4,5	at N.Y.
Jy. 6,7,8	at PIT
Jy. 9,10,11,12	N.Y.
Jy. 16,17,18,19	ATL
Jy. 20,21,22	PIT
Jy. 24,25,26	CHI
Jy. 27,28,29	at ATL
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2,3	CIN
Au. 4,5	at LA
Au. 7,8,9	at S.D.
Au. 10,11,12	at S.F.
Au. 13,14,15,16	at CHI
Au. 18,19,20	at SLL
Au. 21,22,23	at PHI
Au. 25,26,27	SLL
Au. 28,29,30	MON
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	PHI
Sp. 4,5,6	at MON
Sp. 7,8	CIN
Sp. 9,10	at S.F.
Sp. 11,12,13	ATL
Sp. 14,15,16	S.F.
Sp. 18,19,20	at ATL
Sp. 21,22	at CIN
Sp. 23,24	at S.D.
Sp. 25,26,27	at LA
Sp./Oc. 29,30,1	S.D.
Oc. 2,3,4	LA

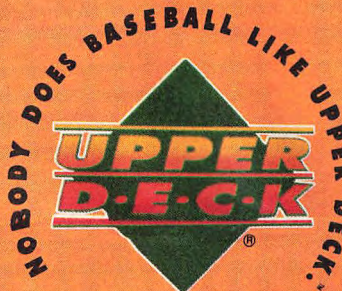
LOS ANGELES	
Ap. 6,7	S.F.
Ap. 9,10,11,12	at S.D.
Ap. 13,14,15	at HOU
Ap. 17,18,19	ATL
Ap. 20,21,22	CIN
Ap. 24,25,26	at S.F.
Ap. 27,28	SLL
Ap. 29,30	PHI
My. 1,2,3	MON
My. 5,6	at PHI
My. 8,9,10	at N.Y.
My. 11,12,13	at MON
My. 15,16,17	N.Y.
My. 18,19,20	CIN
My. 22,23,24	PIT
My. 25,26,27	at SLL
My. 29,30,31	at CHI
Ju. 1,2,3	at PIT
Ju. 5,6,7	CHI
Ju. 8,9,10	ATL
Ju. 12,13,14	at CIN
Ju. 15,16,17	at ATL
Ju. 19,20,21	at HOU
Ju. 22,23	at S.D.
Ju. 25,26,27,28	HOU
Jy. 29,30,1	at S.D.
Jy. 3,4,5	at S.D.
Jy. 6,7,8	MON
Jy. 9,10,11,12	SLL
Jy. 16,17,18,19	at PHI
Jy. 20,21,22	at N.Y.
Jy. 24,25,26	at S.F.
Jy. 27,28,29	at MON
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2	S.D.
Au. 4,5	HOU
Au. 7,8,9,10	at ATL
Au. 11,12,13	at CIN
Au. 14,15,16,17	S.F.
Au. 18,19,20	N.Y.
Au. 21,22,23	CHI
Au. 24,25,26	PIT
Au. 28,29,30	at SLL
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	at CHI
Sp. 4,5,6	at PIT
Sp. 7,8	ATL
Sp. 9,10	S.D.
Sp. 11,12,13	S.F.
Sp. 14,15,16	at S.D.
Sp. 18,19,20	at S.F.
Sp. 21,22	ATL
Sp. 23,24	CIN
Sp. 25,26,27	HOU
Sp./Oc. 29,30,1	at CIN
Oc. 2,3,4	at HOU

MONTREAL	
Ap. 6,8,9	at PIT
Ap. 10,11,12	at N.Y.
Ap. 13,14,15	SLL
Ap. 17,18,19	N.Y.
Ap. 20,21,22,23	PIT
Ap. 24,25,26	at S.F.
Ap. 27,28	at S.D.
Ap. 29,30	at S.D.
My. 1,2,3	at LA
My. 5,6	S.D.
My. 8,9,10	S.F.
My. 11,12,13	at N.Y.
My. 15,16,17	at ATL
My. 18,19,20	CIN
My. 22,23,24	ATL
My. 25,26,27	HOU
My. 29,30,31	at CIN
Ju. 1,2,3	at HOU
Ju. 5,6,7	CHI
Ju. 8,9,10	N.Y.
Ju. 12,13,14	at CHI
Ju. 15,16,17	at N.Y.
Ju. 18,19,20,21	at PIT
Ju. 22,23,24	PHI
Ju. 26,27,28	PIT
Jy. 29,30,1	at PHI
Jy. 3,4,5	at S.D.
Jy. 6,7,8	at LA
Jy. 9,10,11,12	at S.F.
Jy. 16,17,18,19	S.D.
Jy. 20,21,22	S.F.
Jy. 24,25,26	LA
Jy. 27,28,29	at MON
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2	PHI
Au. 4,5	CHI
Au. 7,8,9	at PHI
Au. 10,11,12	at CIN
Au. 14,15,16	SLL
Au. 18,19,20	ATL
Au. 21,22,23	CIN
Au. 24,25,26	at ATL
Au. 28,29,30	at HOU
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	at CIN
Sp. 4,5,6	at PIT
Sp. 7,8,9	SLL
Sp. 10,11,12,13	N.Y.
Sp. 14,15	at PHI
Sp. 16,17	at PIT
Sp. 18,19,20	at N.Y.
Sp. 21,22	PHI
Sp. 23,24	PIT
Sp. 25,26,27	CHI
Sp. 28,29,30	at SLL
Oc. 2,3,4	at CHI

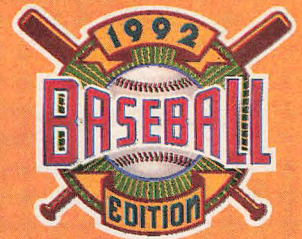
NEW YORK	
Ap. 6,7,8,9	at SLL
Ap. 10,11,12	MON
Ap. 13,14,15	PHI
Ap. 17,18,19	at MON
Ap. 21,22,23	SLL
Ap. 24,25,26	at PHI
Ap. 28,29,30	at HOU
My. 1,2,3	at ATL
My. 4,5	at HOU
My. 6,7	at CIN
My. 8,9,10	LA
My. 11,12,13	S.D.
My. 15,16,17	at S.F.
My. 18,19,20,21	at S.D.
My. 22,23,24	at S.F.
My. 25,26,27	CIN
My. 29,30,31	at CIN
Ju. 1,2	S.F.
Ju. 4,5,6,7	at PIT
Ju. 8,9,10	at MON
Ju. 12,13,14	PIT
Ju. 15,16,17	MON
Ju. 18,19,20,21	SLL
Ju. 22,23,24,25	CHI
Ju. 26,27,28	at SLL
Ju./Jy. 29,30,1	CHI
Jy. 3,4,5	HOU
Jy. 6,7,8	at ATL
Jy. 9,10,11,12	at HOU
Jy. 16,17,18,19	S.F.
Jy. 20,21,22	LA
Jy. 24,25,26	S.D.
Jy. 27,28,29	at PHI
Jy./Au. 30,31,1,2	CHI
Au. 4,5	at PIT
Au. 7,8,9	at PHI
Au. 10,11,12	at CHI
Au. 14,15,16	PHI
Au. 18,19,20	at LA
Au. 21,22,23	at S.D.
Au. 24,25,26	at S.F.
Au. 28,29,30	CIN
Au./Sp. 31,1,2	ATL
Sp. 4,5,6	at CIN
Sp. 7,8,9	SLL
Sp. 10,11,12,13	at MON
Sp. 14,15	at SLL
Sp. 16,17	CHI
Sp. 18,19,20	MON
Sp. 21,22	CHI
Sp. 23,24	at SLL
Sp. 25,26,27	at PIT
Sp. 28,29,30	at SLL
Oc. 2,3,4	PIT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE		
Ap.	6,8,9	CLE
Ap.	10,11,12	at BOS
Ap.	13,15,16	at TOR
Ap.	17,18,19,20	DET
Ap.	21,22,23	at K.C.
Ap.	24,25,26	at N.Y.
Ap.	27,28,29	at MIN
My.	1,2,3	SEA
My.	4,5	TEX
My.	6,7	MIN
My.	8,9,10	CHI
My.	12,13	TEX
My.	15,16,17	at CHI
My.	18,19,20	OAK
My.	22,23,24	CAL
My.	25,26,27	at SEA
My.	29,30,31	at OAK
Ju.	1,2,3	at CAL
Ju.	5,6,7	TOR
Ju.	8,9,10	BOS
Ju.	11,12,13,14	at DET
Ju.	15,16,17	CLE
Ju.	19,20,21,22	N.Y.
Ju.	23,24,25	at MIL
Ju.	26,27,28	K.C.
Ju./Jy.	29,30,1	MIL
Jy.	3,4,5	at MIN
Jy.	6,7,8	CHI
Jy.	9,10,11,12	MIN
Jy.	16,17,18,19	at TEX
Jy.	20,21,22	CHI
Jy.	23,24,25,26	TEX
Jy.	28,29,30	at N.Y.
Jy./Au.	31,1,2	at BOS
Au.	3,4,5	DET
Au.	7,8,9	CLE
Au.	10,11,12,13	at TOR
Au.	14,15,16	at K.C.
Au.	18,19,20	SEA
Au.	21,22,23	OAK
Au.	24,25,26	CAL
Au.	28,29,30	at SEA
Au./Sp.	31,1,2	at OAK
Sp.	4,5,6	at N.Y.
Sp.	7,8,9	N.Y.
Sp.	11,12,13	MIL
Sp.	14,15,16	at MIL
Sp.	18,19,20,21	at K.C.
Sp.	22,23,24	TOR
Sp.	25,26,27,28	BOS
Sp.	29,30	at DET
Oc.	1,2,3,4	CLE



'92 SCHEDULE



NATIONAL LEAGUE

PHILADELPHIA			PITTSBURGH			St. LOUIS			SAN DIEGO			SAN FRANCISCO		
Ap. 7.8.9	CHI		Ap. 6.8.9	MON		Ap. 6.7.8.9	N.Y.		Ap. 6.7.8	at CIN		Ap. 6.7	at L.A.	
Ap. 10.11.12	PHI		Ap. 10.11.12	at PHI		Ap. 10.11.12	at CHI		Ap. 9.10.11.12	at CIN		Ap. 9.10.11.12	at ATL	
Ap. 13.14.15	at N.Y.		Ap. 14.15	CHI		Ap. 13.14.15	at MON		Ap. 14.15.16	at S.F.		Ap. 14.15.16	S.D.	
Ap. 17.18.19	at PIT		Ap. 17.18.19	PHI		Ap. 17.18.19	CHI		Ap. 17.18.19	at HOU		Ap. 17.18.19	CIN	
Ap. 20.21.22.23	at CHI		Ap. 20.21.22.23	at MON		Ap. 21.22.23	at N.Y.		Ap. 20.21.22	CIN		Ap. 20.21.22	at HOU	
Ap. 24.25.26	N.Y.		Ap. 24.25.26	at CHI		Ap. 24.25.26	MON		Ap. 24.25.26	at L.A.		Ap. 24.25.26	L.A.	
Ap. 27.28	at S.D.		Ap. 28.29	at CIN		Ap. 27.28	at L.A.		Ap. 27.28	PHI		Ap. 27.28	MON	
Ap. 29.30	at L.A.		My. 1.2.3	at HOU		Ap. 29.30	at S.F.		Ap. 29.30	MON		Ap. 29.30	SLL	
My. 1.2.3	at S.F.		My. 4.5	CIN		My. 1.2.3	at S.D.		My. 1.2.3	SLL		My. 1.2.3	PHI	
My. 5.6	L.A.		My. 6.7	ATL		My. 5.6.7	S.F.		My. 5.6	at MON		My. 5.6.7	at MON	
My. 8.9.10	S.D.		My. 8.9.10	HOU		My. 8.9.10.11	ATL		My. 8.9.10	at PHI		My. 8.9.10	at PHI	
My. 11.12.13	S.F.		My. 12.13.14	at ATL		My. 12.13	CIN		My. 11.12.13	at N.Y.		My. 11.12.13	at PHI	
My. 15.16.17	at CIN		My. 15.16.17	S.D.		My. 15.16.17	at HOU		My. 15.16.17	at PIT		My. 15.16.17	CHI	
My. 18.19.20	HOU		My. 19.20.21	at S.F.		My. 18.19.20	at ATL		My. 18.19.20.21	N.Y.		My. 19.20.21	PIT	
My. 22.23.24	CIN		My. 22.23.24	at L.A.		My. 22.23.24	HOU		My. 22.23.24	CHI		My. 22.23.24	N.Y.	
My. 25.26.27	ATL		My. 25.26.27	at S.D.		My. 25.26.27	L.A.		My. 25.26.27	PIT		My. 26.27.28	at CHI	
My. 29.30.31	at HOU		My. 29.30.31	S.F.		My. 29.30.31	S.D.		My. 29.30.31	at SLL		My. 29.30.31	at PIT	
Ju. 1.2.3	at ATL		Ju. 1.2.3	L.A.		Ju. 2.3	at CIN		Ju. 1.2.3	at CHI		Ju. 1.2	at N.Y.	
Ju. 5.6.7	SLL		Ju. 4.5.6.7	N.Y.		Ju. 5.6.7	at PHI		Ju. 5.6.7	ATL		Ju. 4.5.6.7	HOU	
Ju. 8.9.10	PIT		Ju. 8.9.10	at PHI		Ju. 8.9.10	CHI		Ju. 8.9.10	HOU		Ju. 8.9.10	CIN	
Ju. 12.13.14	at SLL		Ju. 12.13.14	at N.Y.		Ju. 12.13.14	PHI		Ju. 12.13.14	at ATL		Ju. 12.13.14	at HOU	
Ju. 15.16.17	at PIT		Ju. 15.16.17	PHI		Ju. 15.16.17	at CHI		Ju. 15.16.17	at S.F.		Ju. 15.16.17	at CIN	
Ju. 18.19.20.21	CHI		Ju. 18.19.20.21	MON		Ju. 18.19.20.21	at N.Y.		Ju. 18.19.20.21	at S.F.		Ju. 18.19.20.21	S.D.	
Ju. 22.23.24	at MON		Ju. 22.23.24	SLL		Ju. 22.23.24	at PIT		Ju. 22.23	L.A.		Ju. 23.24	at ATL	
Ju. 26.27.28	at CHI		Ju. 26.27.28	at MON		Ju. 26.27.28	N.Y.		Ju. 25.26.27.28	S.F.		Ju. 25.26.27.28	at S.D.	
Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	MON		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at SLL		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at S.F.		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at L.A.		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	SLL	
Jy. 2.3.4.5	at L.A.		Jy. 2.3.4.5	CIN		Jy. 2.3.4.5	PIT		Jy. 2.3.4.5	MON		Jy. 2.3.4.5	SLL	
Jy. 6.7.8	at S.F.		Jy. 6.7.8	HOU		Jy. 6.7.8	S.D.		Jy. 6.7.8	SLL		Jy. 6.7.8	PHI	
Jy. 9.10.11.12	at S.D.		Jy. 9.10.11.12	at CIN		Jy. 9.10.11.12	at S.C.		Jy. 9.10.11.12	PHI		Jy. 9.10.11.12	MON	
Jy. 16.17.18.19	L.A.		Jy. 16.17.18.19	CHI		Jy. 16.17.18.19	at N.Y.		Jy. 16.17.18.19	at MON		Jy. 16.17.18.19	at N.Y.	
Jy. 20.21.22	S.D.		Jy. 20.21.22	at HOU		Jy. 21.22	ATL		Jy. 20.21.22	at PHI		Jy. 20.21.22	at MON	
Jy. 24.25.26	S.F.		Jy. 24.25.26	at ATL		Jy. 23.24.25.26	CIN		Jy. 24.25.26	at N.Y.		Jy. 24.25.26	at PHI	
Jy. 27.28.29	N.Y.		Jy. 27.28.29	at CHI		Jy. 27.28.29	MON		Jy. 27.28.29	CIN		Jy. 27.28.29	L.A.	
Jy./Au. 30.31.1.2	at MON		Jy./Au. 30.31.1.2	SLL		Jy./Au. 30.31.1.2	at PIT		Jy./Au. 30.31.1.2	at L.A.		Jy./Au. 30.31.1.2	ATL	
Au. 3.4.5	at SLL		Au. 4.5	N.Y.		Au. 3.4.5	PHI		Au. 3.4.5	S.F.		Au. 3.4.5	at S.D.	
Au. 6.7.8.9	MON		Au. 6.7.8.9	at SLL		Au. 6.7.8.9	PIT		Au. 6.7.8.9	HOU		Au. 7.8.9	at CIN	
Au. 11.12.13	SLL		Au. 10.11.12	at N.Y.		Au. 11.12.13	at PHI		Au. 11.12.13	at ATL		Au. 10.11.12	HOU	
Au. 14.15.16	at N.Y.		Au. 14.15.16.17	ATL		Au. 14.15.16	at MON		Au. 14.15.16	at CIN		Au. 14.15.16.17	at L.A.	
Au. 17.18.19	CIN		Au. 18.19.20	S.D.		Au. 18.19.20	HOU		Au. 18.19.20	at PIT		Au. 18.19.20	CHI	
Au. 21.22.23	HOU		Au. 21.22.23	at S.F.		Au. 21.22.23	at ATL		Au. 22.23	N.Y.		Au. 21.22.23	PIT	
Au. 24.25.26	at CIN		Au. 24.25.26	at L.A.		Au. 25.26.27	at HOU		Au. 24.25.26	at PHI		Au. 24.25.26	N.Y.	
Au. 28.29.30	ATL		Au. 27.29.30	at S.D.		Au. 28.29.30	L.A.		Au. 27.29.30	PIT		Au. 28.29.30	at CHI	
Au./Sp. 31.1.2	at ATL		Sp. 1.2.3	S.F.		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	S.D.		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	at SLL		Sp. 1.2.3	at PIT	
Sp. 4.5.6	at N.Y.		Sp. 4.5.6	CHI		Sp. 7.8.9	at MON		Sp. 4.5.6	at S.F.		Sp. 4.5.6	at SLL	
Sp. 7.8.9	N.Y.		Sp. 7.8.9	CHI		Sp. 7.8.9	at MON		Sp. 7.8	at S.F.		Sp. 7.8	S.D.	
Sp. 11.12.13	PIT		Sp. 11.12.13	at PHI		Sp. 11.12.13	CHI		Sp. 9.10	at L.A.		Sp. 9.10	HOU	
Sp. 14.15	MON		Sp. 14.15	at SLL		Sp. 14.15	PIT		Sp. 11.12.13	CIN		Sp. 11.12.13	at L.A.	
Sp. 16.17	at PHI		Sp. 16.17	MON		Sp. 16.17	at N.Y.		Sp. 14.15.16	L.A.		Sp. 14.15.16	at HOU	
Sp. 18.19.20	at PIT		Sp. 18.19.20	PHI		Sp. 18.19.20	at CHI		Sp. 18.19.20	at CIN		Sp. 18.19.20	L.A.	
Sp. 21.22	at MON		Sp. 21.22	SLL		Sp. 21.22	at PIT		Sp. 21.22	S.F.		Sp. 21.22	at S.D.	
Sp. 23.24	CHI		Sp. 23.24	at MON		Sp. 23.24	N.Y.		Sp. 23.24	HOU		Sp. 23.24	ATL	
Sp. 25.26.27	SLL		Sp. 25.26.27	N.Y.		Sp. 25.26.27	at PHI		Sp. 25.26.27	ATL		Sp. 25.26.27	CIN	
Sp. 28.29.30	at N.Y.		Sp. 28.29.30	at CHI		Sp. 28.29.30	MON		Sp./Oc. 29.30.1	at HOU		Sp./Oc. 29.30.1	at ATL	
Oc. 2.3.4	at SLL		Oc. 2.3.4	at N.Y.		Oc. 2.3.4	PHI		Oc. 2.3.4	at ATL		Oc. 2.3.4	at CIN	

1991 ATTENDANCE

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Club	Attendance
Los Angeles	3,348,170
St. Louis	2,448,699
Cincinnati	2,372,377
Chicago	2,314,250
New York	2,284,484
Atlanta	2,140,217
Pittsburgh	2,065,302
Philadelphia	2,050,012
San Diego	1,804,289
San Francisco	1,737,478
Houston	1,196,152
Montreal	934,742

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Club	Attendance
Toronto	4,001,527
Chicago	2,934,154
Oakland	2,713,493
Boston	2,562,435
Baltimore	2,552,753
California	2,416,236
Texas	2,297,720
Minnesota	2,293,842
Kansas City	2,161,537
Seattle	2,147,905
New York	1,863,733
Detroit	1,641,661
Milwaukee	1,478,729
Cleveland	1,051,863
*Club record	

JULY 14 — All-Star Game at San Diego

DH = Doubleheader

All dates represent the official American League and National League schedules released prior to spring training. For any late changes, check with individual clubs.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

MILWAUKEE			MINNESOTA			NEW YORK			OAKLAND			SEATTLE			TEXAS			TORONTO		
Ap. 6.8.9	MIN		Ap. 6.8.9	at MIL		Ap. 7.9	BOS		Ap. 6.8.9	K.C.		Ap. 6.7.8.9	TEX		Ap. 6.7.8.9	at SEA		Ap. 6.8.9	at DET	
Ap. 10.11.12	at CAL		Ap. 10.11.12	TEX		Ap. 10.11.12	at DET		Ap. 10.11.12	CHI		Ap. 10.11.12	K.C.		Ap. 10.11.12	at MIN		Ap. 10.11.12	at BAL	
Ap. 14.15	at MIN		Ap. 14.15	MIL		Ap. 13.14.15.16	at TOR		Ap. 13.14.15.16	at K.C.		Ap. 13.14.15.16	at CHI		Ap. 13.14.15.16	CAL		Ap. 13.14.15.16	NAL	
Ap. 17.18.19	SEA		Ap. 17.18.19	at CHI		Ap. 17.18.19.20	CLE		Ap. 17.18.19	at TEX		Ap. 17.18.19	at MIL		Ap. 17.18.19	OAK		Ap. 17.18.19.20	at BOS	
Ap. 21.22.23	BOS		Ap. 20.21.22.23	at SEA		Ap. 21.22	at CHI		Ap. 20.21.22	CAL		Ap. 20.21.22.23	MIN		Ap. 21.22.23	DET		Ap. 21.22.23	CLE	
Ap. 24.25.26	at K.C.		Ap. 24.25.26	OAK		Ap. 24.25.26	BAL		Ap. 24.25.26	at MIN		Ap. 24.25.26	at CAL		Ap. 24.25.26	at BOS		Ap. 24.25.26	K.C.	
Ap. 28.29	CLE		Ap. 27.28.29	BAL		Ap. 27.28.29	TEX		Ap. 28.29	at CLE		Ap. 28.29	at DET		Ap. 27.28.29	at N.Y.		Ap. 28.29	CAL	
Ap./My. 30.1.2.3	TOR		My. 1.2.3	at N.Y.		My. 1.2.3	MIN		Ap./My. 30.1.2.3	at DET		My. 1.2.3	at BAL		Ap./My. 30.1.2.3	at CHI		Ap./My. 30.1.2.3	at MIL	
My. 4.5	at CHI		My. 4.5	at BOS		My. 4.5	at SEA		My. 4.5	TOR		My. 4.5	N.Y.		My. 4.5	at BAL		My. 4.5	at OAK	
My. 6.7	at K.C.		My. 6.7	at BAL		My. 6.7	at CAL		My. 6.7	DET		My. 6.7	TOR		My. 6.7	CLE		My. 6.7	SEA	
My. 8.9.10	at TEX		My. 8.9.10	CLE		My. 8.9.10	at OAK		My. 8.9.10	N.Y.		My. 8.9.10	DET		My. 8.9.10	MIL		My. 8.9.10	at CAL	
My. 12.13	CHI		My. 12.13	BOS		My. 12.13	SEA		My. 12.13	at TOR		My. 12.13	at N.Y.		My. 12.13	BAL		My. 12.13	at OAK	
My. 15.16.17	TEX		My. 15.16.17	at CLE		My. 15.16.17	OAK		My. 15.16.17	at N.Y.		My. 14.15.16.17	at TOR		My. 15.16.17	at MIL		My. 14.15.16.17	SEA	
My. 18.19.20.21	at DET		My. 18.19.20	at TOR		My. 18.19.20	CAL		My. 18.19.20	at BAL		My. 18.19.20	at BOS		My. 18.19.20	at CLE		My. 18.19.20	MIN	
My. 22.23.24.25	at N.Y.		My. 22.23.24	at DET		My. 22.23.24.25	MIL		My. 22.23.24	at BOS		My. 22.23.24	CLE		My. 21.22.23.24	K.C.		My. 22.23.24	CHI	
My. 26.27	at TOR		My. 26.27	N.Y.		My. 26.27	at MIN		My. 25.26.27	at BAL		My. 25.26.27	BAL		My. 26.27.28	CHI		My. 26.27	MIL	
My. 29.30.31	N.Y.		My. 29.30.31	DET		My. 29.30.31	at TEX		My. 29.30.31	CLE		My. 29.30.31	BOS		My. 29.30.31	at K.C.		My. 29.30.31	CHI	
Ju. 1.2.3	DET		Ju. 1.2.3	TOR		Ju. 1.2.3	at TEX		Ju. 1.2.3	BOS		Ju. 2.3.4	at CLE		Ju. 1.2.3	N.Y.		Ju. 1.2.3	at MIN	
Ju. 5.6.7	CAL		Ju. 4.5.6.7	at TOR		Ju. 4.5.6.7	DET		Ju. 5.6.7	at CHI		Ju. 5.6.7	at K.C.		Ju. 4.5.6.7	MIL		Ju. 5.6.7	at BAL	
Ju. 8.9.10	OAK		Ju. 8.9.10	at K.C.		Ju. 8.9.10	TOR		Ju. 8.9.10	at MIL		Ju. 8.9.10	at TEX		Ju. 8.9.10	SEA		Ju. 8.9.10	at N.Y.	
Ju. 12.13.14	at SEA		Ju. 12.13.14	CHI		Ju. 12.13.14	at CLE		Ju. 12.13.14	TEX		Ju. 12.13.14	OAK		Ju. 12.13.14	at OAK		Ju. 12.13.14	BOS	
Ju. 15.16.17	at OAK		Ju. 15.16.17.18	K.C.		Ju. 15.16.17.18	at BOS		Ju. 15.16.17	MIL		Ju. 15.16.17.18	CHI		Ju. 15.16.17	at CAL		Ju. 15.16.17	DET	
Ju. 18.19.20.21	CLE		Ju. 19.20.21	SEA		Ju. 19.20.21.22	at BAL		Ju. 19.20.21	at K.C.		Ju. 19.20.21	at MIN		Ju. 19.20.21	BOS		Ju. 19.20.21	at TOR	
Ju. 23.24.25	BAL		Ju. 23.24.25	CAL		Ju. 23.24.25	at K.C.		Ju. 23.24.25	SEA		Ju. 23.24.25	OAK		Ju. 23.24.25	at OAK		Ju. 23.24.25	at CAL	
Ju. 26.27.28	at BOS		Ju. 25.26.27.28	at OAK		Ju. 26.27.28	CHI		Ju. 25.26.27.28	MIN		Ju. 25.26.27.28	CAL		Ju. 25.26.28	at DET		Ju. 26.27.28	at CLE	
Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at BAL		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at CAL		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	K.C.		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at SEA		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at SEA		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	at TOR		Ju./Jy. 29.30.1	TEX	
Ju. 2.3.4.5	at K.C.		Ju. 3.4.5	BAL		Ju. 3.4.5	at TEX		Ju. 3.4.5	CLE		Ju. 3.4.5	at DET		Ju. 3.4.5	N.Y.		Ju. 3.4.5	at K.C.	
Ju. 6.7.8	at TEX		Ju. 6.7.8	at N.Y.		Ju. 9.10.11.12	at BAL		Ju. 6.7.8	at MIN		Ju. 6.7.8	at TOR		Ju. 6.7.8	MIL		Ju. 6.7.8	SEA	
Ju. 9.10.11.12	CHI		Ju. 16.17.18.19	BOS		Ju. 9.10.11.12	SEA		Ju. 9.10.11.12	at TOR		Ju. 9.10.11.12	at N.Y.		Ju. 9.10.11.12	CLE		Ju. 9.10.11.12	OAK	
Ju. 16.17.18.19	at K.C.		Ju. 16.17.18.19	at CAL		Ju. 16.17.18.19	at SEA		Ju. 16.17.18.19	DET		Ju. 16.17.18.19	DET		Ju. 16.17.18.19	BAL		Ju. 16.17.18.19	at SEA	
Ju. 20.21.22	TEX		Ju. 20.21.22	CLE		Ju. 20.21.22	at OAK		Ju. 20.21.22	N.Y.		Ju. 20.21.22	DET		Ju. 20.21.22	at MIL		Ju. 20.21.22	at CAL	
Ju. 23.24.25.26	CHI		Ju. 23.24.25.26	at BOS		Ju. 23.24.25.26	at SEA		Ju. 23.24.25.26	TOR		Ju. 23.24.25.26	N.Y.		Ju. 23.24.25.26	at BAL		Ju. 23.24.25.26	at OAK	
Ju. 27.28.29	at CLE		Ju. 27.28.29	OAK		Ju. 28.29.30	BAL		Ju. 27.28.29	at MIN		Ju. 27.28.29.30	CHI		Ju. 27.28.29	at BOS		Ju. 28.29.30	K.C.	
Ju./Au. 30.31.1.2	at MIN		Ju./Au. 30.31.1.2	MIL		Ju./Au. 31.1.2	at TOR		Ju./Au. 31.1.2	at K.C.		Ju./Au. 31.1.2	at CAL		Ju./Au. 31.1.2	at CHI		Ju./Au. 31.1.2	at N.Y.	
Au. 4.5.6	SEA		Au. 4.5.6	at SEA		Au. 3.4.5	CLE		Au. 3.4.5.6	at TEX		Au. 4.5.6	at MIL		Au. 4.5.6	CAL		Au. 3.4.5.6	at BOS	
Au. 7.8.9	MIN		Au. 7.8.9	at CHI		Au. 6.7.8.9	BOS		Au. 7.8.9	K.C.		Au. 7.8.9	TEX		Au. 7.8.9	SEA		Au. 6.7.8.9	at DET	
Au. 10.11.12	at CAL		Au. 10.11.12.13	TEX		Au. 10.11.12	at DET		Au. 10.11.12	CHI		Au. 10.11.12	K.C.		Au. 10.11.12.13	at MIN		Au. 10.11.12.13	BAL	
Au. 14.15.16	BOS		Au. 14.15.16	at SEA		Au. 14.15.16.17	at OAK		Au. 13.14.15.16	CAL		Au. 14.15.16	MIN		Au. 14.15.16	DET		Au. 14.15.16	at CLE	
Au. 18.19.20	TOR		Au. 18.19.20	at CHI		Au. 18.19.20	at SEA		Au. 18.19.20	at N.Y.		Au. 18.19.20	at BAL		Au. 18.19.20	at BAL		Au. 18.19.20	at MIL	
Au. 21.22.23	DET		Au. 21.22.23	DET		Au. 21.22.23	CAL		Au. 21.22.23	at BAL		Au. 21.22.23	at BOS		Au. 21.22.23	CLE		Au. 21.22.23	at CHI	
Au. 24.25.26	at N.Y.		Au. 24.25.26	TOR		Au. 24.25.26	MIL		Au. 24.25.26	at BOS		Au. 25.26.27	CLE		Au. 25.26.27	K.C.		Au. 24.25.26	at MIN	
Au. 27.28.29.30	at TOR		Au. 27.28.29.30	N.Y.		Au. 27.28.29.30	at MIN		Au. 28.29.30	CLE		Au. 28.29.30	BAL		Au. 28.29.30	CHI		Au. 27.28.29.30	MIL	
Au./Sp. 31.1.2	N.Y.		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	at DET		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	at MIL		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	BAL		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	BOS		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	at K.C.		Au./Sp. 31.1.2	CHI	
Sp. 4.5.6	at DET		Sp. 4.5.6	at SEA		Sp. 4.5.6	TEX		Sp. 4.5.6	BOS		Sp. 4.5.6	at CLE		Sp. 4.5.6	at N.Y.		Sp. 4.5.6	at TOR	
Sp. 7.8.9	CLE		Sp. 7.8.9	TOR		Sp. 7.8.9	at BAL		Sp. 7.8.9	at CAL		Sp. 7.8.9	at MIN		Sp. 7.8.9	BOS		Sp. 7.8.9	at OAK	
Sp. 11.12.13	at BAL		Sp. 11.12.13	at OAK		Sp. 11.12.13	K.C.		Sp. 10.11.12.13	SEA		Sp. 10.11.12.13	at OAK		Sp. 11.12.13	at TOR		Sp. 11.12.13	at K.C.	
Sp. 14.15.16.17	at BOS		Sp. 14.15.16	at CAL		Sp. 14.15.16	CHI		Sp. 14.15.16	MIN		Sp. 15.16.17	MIN		Sp. 15.16	at DET		Sp. 14.15.16.17	at SEA	
Sp. 18.19.20.21	SEA		Sp. 17.18.19.20	at CAL		Sp. 18.19.20	at TOR		Sp. 18.19.20	at N.Y.		Sp. 18.19.20	CAL		Sp. 18.19.20	at OAK		Sp. 18.19.20	TEX	
Sp. 22.23.24	CAL		Sp. 22.23.24	at TEX		Sp. 22.23.24	DET		Sp. 21.22.23.24	CHI		Sp. 21.22.23.24	at K.C.		Sp. 22.23	MIN		Sp. 22.23.24	at BAL	
Sp. 25.26.27	OAK		Sp. 25.26.27	TOR		Sp. 25.26.27	TOR		Sp. 25.26.27	at MIL		Sp. 25.26.27	at TEX		Sp. 25.26.27	SEA		Sp. 25.26.27	at N.Y.	
Sp. 29.30.1	at SEA		Sp./Oc. 28.29.30.1	CHI		Sp. 28.29.30	at CLE		Sp./Oc. 29.30.1	TEX		Sp./Oc. 29.30.1	CHI		Sp./Oc. 29.30.1	at OAK		Sp. 29.30	BOS	
Oc. 2.3.4	at OAK		Oc. 2.3.4	at K.C.		Oc. 2.3.4	at BOS		Oc. 2.3.4	MIL		Oc. 2.3.4	MIL		Oc. 2.3.4	at CAL		Oc. 2.3.4	at DET	

THE

FARM

**GRADING BASEBALL'S
MINOR LEAGUE SYSTEMS**

REPORT

AL EAST

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

AFFILIATES: Syracuse, N.Y. (AAA); Knoxville, Tenn. (AA); Dunedin, Fla. (A); Myrtle Beach, S.C. (A); St. Catharines, Ontario (short season); Medicine Hat, Alberta (short season); Murdock, Fla. (short season)

The Blue Jays and Dodgers have pursued talent in the Dominican Republic more aggressively than any other organization, but the effort hasn't paid off for Toronto. While there were seven Dominicans in the major leagues last season originally signed by the Blue Jays, none played for Toronto (Manuel Lee's first three years were with the Mets and Astros) and the only star-caliber player elsewhere was Tony Fernandez. Shifting their focus to the domestic market, the Blue Jays are trying to make up for years of indifferent drafts by taking top prospects whom other organizations consider unsignable. It is an expensive approach, but has allowed Toronto to land John Olerud, Steve Karsay, Chris Weinke, Felipe Crespo, Scott Burrell, Shawn Green and Alex Gonzalez — the equivalent of seven first-round draft choices in three years. The greatest coup would be signing Eric Lindros, the No. 1 pick in the 1991 NHL draft who refused to sign with Quebec. The 6-3, 220-pound first baseman worked out with Toronto's instructional league team and with a bat "is about as impressive as Jose Canseco," said instructor Mike Easler.

HELP THIS SEASON: DEREK BELL, OF (AAA) — Baseball America's 1991 minor league player of the year (.346, 13 HR, 93 RBIs, 27 SB), he likely will break in with the Blue Jays as part of a four-man outfield rotation. Bell, 23, has learned to make adjustments for breaking pitches with his quick, strong line-drive swing and is an above-average runner. He made 16 errors last season, many on ground balls, but has adequate defensive skills, including an arm that is playable in right field. **EDDIE ZOSKY, SS (AAA)** — He doesn't have as much range as Manuel Lee, but more than compensates with arm strength that rivals Shawn Dunston's, and developed routine-play consistency last season (17 errors first 65 games, 7 final 54). Zosky, 24, won't offer much offense without a tighter swing and more disciplined approach than was evident last year (.264, 6 HR, 39 RBIs in '91). **PAT HENTGEN, RHP (AAA)** — He led the system in strikeouts (155) and limited batters to a .234 average last season, but wasn't always consistent (8-9, 4.47 ERA, 90 BB in 171 IP). Hentgen, 23, throws a live fastball and is close enough to trusting his curve and change-up that he could be in the rotation by June. **DAVID WEATHERS, RHP (AA)** — He could make the team as a long reliever if his command of the strike zone is as good as it was last season (10-7, 2.45 ERA, 114 K's and 49 BB in 139 IP). Weathers, 22, has good sinking action on his fastball and a solid breaking pitch.

TOP PROSPECTS: STEVE KARSAY, RHP (A) — A potential No. 1 starter, he works with an overpowering fastball and a knee-buckling curve. Except for going AWOL to escort his girlfriend to her high-school prom, Karsay, 20, accounted well for himself last season (4-9, 3.58 ERA, 100 K's and 48 BB in 111 IP). He developed a sore elbow in the instructional league, but was expected to be healthy for spring training. **HOWARD BATTLE, 3B (A)** — Just 19 and in his first full season, he led the organization in home runs and was second in RBIs last year (.279, 20 HR, 87 RBIs). The 6-foot, 200-pound Battle makes hard contact and has a

power lift in his swing. He has quick actions at third base but an erratic arm (29 errors). **CARLOS DELGADO, C (A)** — A native of Puerto Rico, he is a 6-3, 210-pound receiver with lefthanded power potential (.286, 18 HR, 70 RBIs last season). Delgado, 19, has huge, soft hands and a plus arm, but has work to do behind the plate, as evidenced by 19 errors last year.

WORTH WATCHING: Nigel Wilson, OF (A); Chris Weinke, 3B (A); Marcus Moore, RHP (A); Alex Gonzalez, SS (R); Felipe Crespo, 2B (R); Robert Adkins, RHP (R)

GRADE: A

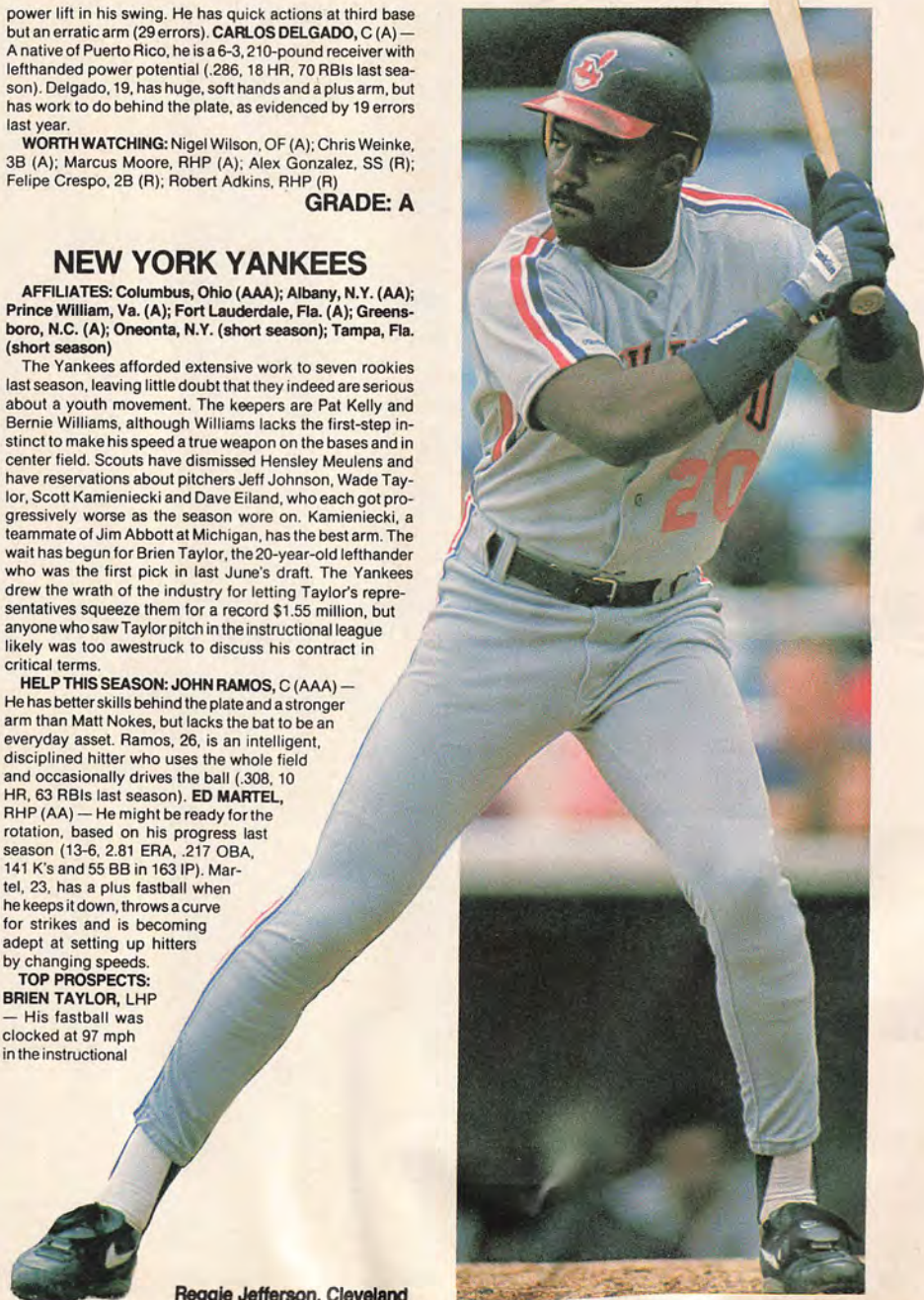
NEW YORK YANKEES

AFFILIATES: Columbus, Ohio (AAA); Albany, N.Y. (AA); Prince William, Va. (A); Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (A); Greensboro, N.C. (A); Oneonta, N.Y. (short season); Tampa, Fla. (short season)

The Yankees afforded extensive work to seven rookies last season, leaving little doubt that they indeed are serious about a youth movement. The keepers are Pat Kelly and Bernie Williams, although Williams lacks the first-step instinct to make his speed a true weapon on the bases and in center field. Scouts have dismissed Hensley Meulens and have reservations about pitchers Jeff Johnson, Wade Taylor, Scott Kamieniecki and Dave Eiland, who each got progressively worse as the season wore on. Kamieniecki, a teammate of Jim Abbott at Michigan, has the best arm. The wait has begun for Brian Taylor, the 20-year-old lefthander who was the first pick in last June's draft. The Yankees drew the wrath of the industry for letting Taylor's representatives squeeze them for a record \$1.55 million, but anyone who saw Taylor pitch in the instructional league likely was too awestruck to discuss his contract in critical terms.

HELP THIS SEASON: JOHN RAMOS, C (AAA) — He has better skills behind the plate and a stronger arm than Matt Nokes, but lacks the bat to be an everyday asset. Ramos, 26, is an intelligent, disciplined hitter who uses the whole field and occasionally drives the ball (.308, 10 HR, 63 RBIs last season). **ED MARTEL, RHP (AA)** — He might be ready for the rotation, based on his progress last season (13-6, 2.81 ERA, .217 OBA, 141 K's and 55 BB in 163 IP). Martel, 23, has a plus fastball when he keeps it down, throws a curve for strikes and is becoming adept at setting up hitters by changing speeds.

TOP PROSPECTS: BRIEN TAYLOR, LHP — His fastball was clocked at 97 mph in the instructional



Reggie Jefferson, Cleveland

league and delivered so easily that Taylor hardly seemed to be expending effort. He finished the six-week session by blowing away dazed Cleveland farmhands for five innings, yielding one hit and no walks and striking out 10. Taylor likely will start his pro career at Fort Lauderdale and could be ready for New York by 1993 if his curve and change-up come of age. **MARK HUTTON**, RHP (AAA-A) — On track to become the first Australian to pitch in the major leagues, he has an overpowering fastball and superb mechanics for a man 6-6, 230 pounds. Hutton, 22, emerged last season (6-8, 2.41 ERA, 122 K's and 70 BB in 153 IP) by improving his breaking pitch. He limited batters to a .187 average, third best among minor league starters. **CARL EVERETT**, OF (A) — The 10th player drafted in 1990, he is a switch-hitter with sprinter's speed and an instinctive centerfielder with a plus arm. Everett, 20, showed vast potential as a leadoff hitter last season (.271, 4 HR, 40 RBIs, 28 SB), and might hit 10-15 homers a year once he solves breaking pitches (122 K's). **DAVE SILVESTRI**, SS (AA) — The starting shortstop on the 1988 U.S. Olympic team, he generates opposite-field power with an aggressive righthanded swing (.262, 31 2B, 19 HR, 83 RBIs, 126 K's last season). Silvestri, 24, has marginal skills at shortstop (32 errors) but can be adequate if he provides offense. **RUSS SPRINGER**, RHP (AA-A) — A teammate of Ben McDonald at LSU, he had a sore shoulder when he was drafted in 1989 and wasn't completely healthy until last season (6-9, 3.33 ERA, .209 OBA, 68 BB and 154 K's in 167 IP). Springer, 23, throws 90 mph and has a sharp break on his curve.

WORTH WATCHING: Gerald Williams, OF (AAA-AA); Roberto Munoz, RHP (AAA-A); Mike Gardella, LHP (AA); Bob Wickman, RHP (AA-A); Sam Miltello, RHP (AA-A); Kiki Hernandez, C (A)

GRADE: B+

CLEVELAND INDIANS

AFFILIATES: Colorado Springs (AAA); Canton-Akron, Ohio (AA); Kinston, N.C. (A); Columbus, Ga. (A); Watertown, N.Y. (short season); Burlington, N.C. (short season)

The Indians' quest for a youthful (inexpensive) lineup hardly has been bolstered by their farm system. Among the projected regulars this season, only Mark Lewis, Jim Thome and Albert Belle are home-grown products. No. 1 starter Charles Nagy and closer Steve Olin are the only key pitchers originally signed by the Tribe. While scouts like Cleveland's recent drafts, the Indians have had trouble developing talent. Belle, at this point, is the only established everyday player from the system since Kelly Gruber, who was drafted in 1980. Nagy and Greg Swindell were the only Tribe-grown starting pitchers in the major leagues last season.

HELP THIS SEASON: **REGGIE JEFFERSON**, 1B (AAA-AA) — Grabbed from Cincinnati last summer when the Reds blundered his roster status, he is a switch-hitter with strength from both sides of the plate. Jefferson, 23, had some health problems last season (.264, 6 HR, 45 RBIs in 264 AB) and tends to gain weight, but could be a 20-HR, 85-RBI guy if he stays in shape. **JIM THOME**, 3B (AAA-AA) — A lefty swinger with great bat speed, he uses the whole field and should grow into some power (.319, 27 2B, 7 HR, 73 RBIs last season). Thome, 21, doesn't have great hands at third base (23 errors), but is working toward adequacy. **KENNY LOFTON**, OF (AAA) — Obtained from Houston, he might be the fastest player in baseball and has some line-drive push in his lefthanded swing (.308, 19 2B, 17 3B, 50 RBIs, 40 SB last season). Lofton, 24, is a superb flycatcher in center field, but lacks arm strength. **JEFF MUTIS**, LHP (AA) — Efficient with a sinker, slider and change-up, he enhanced his repertoire last season by adding a cut fastball for use against lefties. Mutis, 25, limited batters to a .225 average and did not allow a homer in 170 innings (11-5, 1.80 ERA). His velocity was lacking in a three-start major league trial, but returned in the instructional league.

TOP PROSPECTS: **MANNY RAMIREZ**, OF (Rookie) — A Dominican Republic native who moved to New York City seven years ago, he might be the next George Bell. Ramirez, 20, has a quick, natural power swing (.326, 19 HR, 63 RBIs in 59 games last season), average speed and a rightfielder's arm. Scouts say he's the best young breaking-ball hitter since Ken Griffey Jr. **TRACY SANDERS**, OF (A) — A 58th-round draft choice in 1990 after playing three seasons for Gaylor Perry at Limestone College, he has emerged as lefthanded power-hitting material (.266, 18 HR, 63 RBIs last season). Sanders, 22, was a top high school prospect until suffering an ankle injury in his final game. He has a natural lift in his swing, runs average and is being groomed for left field. **PAUL BYRD**, RHP (A) — He regained command of his fastball after leaving LSU last June and adapted quickly to pro ball (4-3, 3.16 ERA, 62 K's and 36 BB in 63 IP). Byrd, 21, throws hard and has a good breaking pitch, but some scouts wonder if his 6-1, 175-pound frame will hold up in a starter's role.

WORTH WATCHING: Tom Kramer, RHP (AAA-AA); Lee Tinsley, OF (AA); Jerry DiPoto, RHP (AA); Oscar Munoz, RHP (AA-A); Clyde Pough, OF (A); Jason Hardtke, SS (A)

GRADE: B-

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

AFFILIATES: Rochester, N.Y. (AAA); Hagerstown, Md. (AA); Frederick, Md. (A); Kane County, Ill. (A); Bluefield, W.Va. (short season); Sarasota, Fla. (short season)

After a long barren spell, the Orioles appear to be back in the player-development business, largely due to astute use of their eight first-round draft choices in the past five years. Ben McDonald and Mike Mussina have become the top two starters on the varsity, and Gregg Olson the closer. Pete Harnisch was used in the trade for Glenn Davis. Shortstop Ricky Gutierrez and outfielder Mark Smith are top prospects in the high minors. The only disappointment has been lefthander Chris Myers, who was sent to Montreal last season in a minor league trade. The other No. 1 was Brad Duval, who didn't sign. Drafting well in the first round may not seem like much of an accomplishment to most organizations, but prior to 1987, an Orioles first-rounder had not made good since Rich Dauer (1974).

HELP THIS SEASON: **ARTHUR RHODES**, LHP (AA) — He and Brian Taylor of the Yankees are considered the top lefthanded prospects in the minors. Rhodes, 22, throws a 95-mph fastball with exceptional life, and his curve and change-up show great promise. After a late start last season because of a tender arm, he quickly got back on track (7-4, 2.70 ERA, .194 OBA, 115 K's and 47 BB in 107 IP) but struggled in an eight-start audition with the Orioles. He could be ready after a dozen starts in Triple-A. **LUIS MERCED**, OF (AAA) — He won batting titles in 1989 and 1990 and just missed another last season (.334, 2 HR, 36 RBIs, 23 SB). Merced, 23, is a leadoff hitter with a strong, slashing-type swing and extra-base speed. He needs work to become an adequate corner outfielder, but of more concern is his personality, which is so volatile that teammates physically attacked him once last year.

TOP PROSPECTS: **MANNY ALEXANDER**, SS (AA-A) — A prototype from the shortstop factory in San Pedro de Macoris, he might be the guy who finally pushes Cal Ripken to third base. Alexander, 21, is a slap-and-run hitter (.262, 47 SB last season), but scouts say any offense will be a bonus if he channels his spectacular defensive skills into routine-play consistency (32 errors). **MARK SMITH**, OF (A) — The ninth player drafted last June, he is a high-ceilinged hitter with potential as a middle-of-the-order run-producer. Smith didn't sign until mid-July and struggled (.250, 4 HR, 29 RBIs in 148 AB), but shows enough maturity with his quick, strong line-drive swing to advance quickly. He's a corner outfielder with a strong arm. **JEFF WILLIAMS**, RHP (AA-A) — He has the heavy fastball, hard slider and aggressive approach to develop into a major league closer. Williams, 23 in April, showed improved command last season (23 saves, 2.63 ERA, 62 K's and 38 BB in 72 IP), but hardly thrilled the Orioles with his tendency to gain weight and fall out of shape. **VAUGHN ESCHELMAN**, LHP (A) — Drafted last June after a mediocre college season at Houston, he became a dominant starter in the Midwest League (5-3, 2.32 ERA, .206 OBA, 90 K's and 35 BB in 78 IP) and is ready for Double-A. Eschelman, 22, has an average fastball with good life, and command of a slurve and change-up. **RICKY GUTIERREZ**, SS (AAA-AA) — A legitimate shortstop but not in a class with Manny Alexander, he started working at second base in the instructional league last fall. Gutierrez, 22 in May, hit .306 in 157 at-bats in Triple-A last season after going there as a .248 career hitter. With physical maturity, he could have gap power.

WORTH WATCHING: Mike Oquist, RHP (AA); Damon Buford, OF (AA); Brad Pennington, LHP (A); Matt Anderson, LHP (A); Brent Miller, 1B (A); Alex Ochoa, OF (R)

GRADE: C

BOSTON RED SOX

AFFILIATES: Pawtucket, R.I. (AAA); New Britain, Conn. (AA); Lynchburg, Va. (A); Winter Haven, Fla. (A); Elmira, N.Y. (short season); Winter Haven (Rookie)

One of the ironies of baseball is Roger Clemens pitching for the Red Sox. The best pitcher in the game got his professional start with an organization that historically has paid less attention to developing pitching than any other club. Clemens and Oil Can Boyd were the only pitchers signed as amateurs by the Red Sox in the 1980s to become significant major leaguers, although Kevin Morton has shown he may be able to join that select group. It is uncertain if the Red Sox can even recognize a top pitching prospect. The Red Sox young arms in the organization in recent years belonged to Reggie Harris, who was lost to Oak-

land in the 1989 Rule 5 draft, and Greg Hansell, who was traded to the Mets in 1990 for Mike Marshall. They still have Frankie Rodriguez, one of the top righthanded prospects in the game — but he's being developed as a shortstop. Rodriguez, at least, is a superb athlete, a species the Red Sox are starting to consider after years of weighting their drafts with players who had a chance to hit but were lacking in other areas. Jeff McNeely and J.J. Johnson are better athletes than Rodriguez.

HELP THIS SEASON: **PAUL QUANTRILL**, RHP (AAA-AA) — A sinker/slider pitcher, he has been a starter (12-8, 4.01 ERA, .276 OBA in 191 IP last season) but has the rubber arm and competitive makeup to fill a role in the bullpen. Quantrill, 23, has superb control (79 BB in 450 IP) yet doesn't always work low enough in the strike zone. **PETER HOY**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He was going nowhere until dropping to a three-quarters arm angle, which added hard sinking action to his fastball and enhanced the intimidating aspect of his 6-7, 220-pound frame. Hoy, 25, was an effective closer last season (1.68 ERA, 20 saves, 51 K's and 32 BB in 91 IP) but fits better as a long man since he lacks a strikeout pitch. **SCOTT COOPER**, 3B (AAA) — Out of options, he's all but guaranteed of making the Red Sox or being traded. Many teams could use Cooper, 24, who makes consistent contact and has line-drive power from the left side (.277, 15 HR, 72 RBIs last season). He's slow afoot, but has first-step instincts and a great arm at third base.

TOP PROSPECTS: **FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ**, SS (A-Rookie) — He showed exceptional bat speed last season (.283, 6 HR, 34 RBIs) and has the wiry strength to become a big power hitter in Fenway Park. Despite 25 errors in 70 games, Rodriguez showed better actions at shortstop than scouts expected. Most, though, think his greatest worth is on the mound, where he was clocked throwing 97 mph last spring as an amateur. **JEFF MCNEELY**, OF (A) — An Ellis Burks-type athlete with 3.9 speed from the right-side batter's box to first base, he was a batting champion last season (.322, 4 HR, 38 RBIs, 38 SB) as a leadoff hitter. Once he learns to drive the ball, McNeely, 21, can be a No. 3 hitter. He can outrun the ball in center field and has enough arm for right. **AARON SELE**, RHP (A) — The 23rd player drafted last June, he is a polished, savvy starter with a solid fastball and command of his breaking pitches. Although Sele, 21, didn't show the consistent velocity last season (3-6, 4.96 ERA, 51 K's and 32 BB in 69 IP) that scouts had seen when he was the ace of Team USA in 1990, he is ready for Double-A and should advance quickly.

WORTH WATCHING: Greg Blosser, OF (AA); Jim Byrd, SS (AA-A); Scott Hatteberg, C (A); Robert Henkel, RHP (A); J.J. Johnson, OF (Rookie); Chad Schoenvogel, RHP (Rookie)

GRADE: C

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

AFFILIATES: Denver (AAA); El Paso, Texas (AA); Stockton, Calif. (A); Beloit, Wis. (A); Helena, Mont. (short season); Peoria, Ariz. (short season)

Among players who began their careers in the Brewers organization in the past eight years, only Jaime Navarro and Doug Henry have proved to be major league pitchers, and Henry qualifies on the basis of a terrific half-season in 1991. No other organization has had more bad experiences with pitchers than Milwaukee. Alex Hernandez (1988) and Kenny Henderson (1991) were first-round draft choices, but opted for the University of Miami. Chris Johnson, coming off a 13-6 season, was lost to Montreal last summer in a waiver-rule gaffe. Injuries have diminished the potential of other pitching prospects, including Narciso Elvira, Ramser Correa, Greg Landry, Jason Zimbauer and Rusty Rugg.

HELP THIS SEASON: **CAL ELDERD**, RHP (AAA) — A candidate for the rotation, he challenges with a solid fastball and has a biting curve and effective change-up. Eldred, 24, won 10 of his final 11 decisions and led Triple-A in strikeouts last season (13-9, 3.75 ERA, 168 K's and 84 BB in 185 IP). **DAVE NILSSON**, C (AAA-AA) — On track to follow Craig Shipley as the second Australian to play in the major leagues, he led full-season minor leaguers in batting last season (.366, 32 2B, 6 HR, 71 RBIs) and has line-drive thunder in his left-side bat. Nilsson, 22, has a Carlton Fisk-type body, good agility and a strong arm. **CHRIS GEORGE**, RHP (AAA) — He was being groomed as a closer, but lacks a dominant pitch to excel in that role. George, 25, has a solid fastball and hard slider, and showed enough last season (4-5, 2.33 ERA, 65 K's and 26 BB in 85 IP) that he could be the replacement for Chuck Crim, who was traded to California. **JOHN JAHJA**, 1B (AA) — He was the most dominant offensive player in the minors last season, leading in RBIs (134), runs (121), total bases (301), extra-base hits (71) and slugging (.619), and ranking in the top five in average (.344), hits (167), home runs (30), doubles (38) and on-base percentage (.438). Jaha, 25, has a quick righthanded power stroke and good plate discipline. He doesn't clog the

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bases, but is limited afoot because of a knee injury that cost him most of the 1990 season.

TOP PROSPECTS: ANGEL MIRANDA, LHP (AAA-AA) — A 90-mph fastball and effective screwball has enabled him to strike out 497 in 388 pro innings. Miranda, 22, has been used as a closer (3.03 ERA, 13 saves, 100 K's and 58 BB in 86 IP last season), but will be starter material if he can gain command of a slider, which has been slow to develop. **TYRONE HILL**, LHP (Rookie) — The third lefty drafted last June, he has a long, loose arm on a 6-6, 195-pound frame. Hill, 20, throws an 88-mph fastball that should gain velocity as he matures, and has a hard breaking pitch. He was overpowering at times last season (4-2, 3.15 ERA, 76 K's and 35 BB in 60 IP). **DUANE SINGLETON**, OF (A) — He makes solid contact from the left side and has base-stealing speed (.289, 3 HR, 44 RBIs, 42 SB last season). Scouts say Singleton, 19, has the bat speed to grow into 20-homer power. He has above-average arm strength and might be a centerfielder.

WORTH WATCHING: Jimmy Tatum, SS (AA); Otis Green, LHP (AA-A); Bo Dodson, 1B (A); Michael Carter, SS (A); Francisco Gamez, RHP (A); Mike Hancock, LHP (Rookie)

GRADE: C

DETROIT TIGERS

AFFILIATES: Toledo, Ohio (AAA); London, Ontario (AA); Lakeland, Fla. (A); Fayetteville, N.C. (A); Niagara Falls, N.Y. (short season); Bristol, Va. (short season)

The Tigers have revived their player-development program. Travis Fryman and Milt Cuyler are the first everyday players from the system since Howard Johnson. Scott Aldred began to emerge late last season as the first significant starting pitcher developed by the Tigers since Dan Petry, although they should get some credit for John Smoltz, who was in Double-A when he was traded to Atlanta in August 1987. However, it appears that Bo Schembechler, in his first year as club president in 1990, cost the Tigers a draft class with his grand scheme to select raw athletes and turn them into baseball players. Tony Clark, billed as the next Darryl Strawberry and given \$500,000 after being the second player drafted in 1990, has made no progress and plays only when it doesn't inconvenience his college basketball career. Detroit's other high picks have struggled mightily. Outfielder Vince Bradford (.112, 123 K's in 196 AB) and third baseman Jimmy Alder (.198) haven't gotten out of the Appalachian League, while righthander Shannon Withem is 6-17 with a 6.04 ERA.

HELP THIS SEASON: GREG GOHR, RHP (AAA-AA) — He had a 15-strikeout game last season (10-8, 4.30 ERA, 106 K's and 68 BB in 159 IP) but his usual pattern is getting ground-ball outs with a 90-mph sinking fastball and slider. Gohr, 24, needs to prove his change-up to make the Tigers' rotation. **RICH ROWLAND**, C (AAA) — A former lumberjack, he has righthanded power and good discipline at the plate (.272, 13 HR, 68 RBIs last season). Rowland, 25, has some agility behind the plate and throws with a strong, accurate arm. He fits as a reserve now, and could grow into a regular. **JOHN DESILVA**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He is adept at spotting an average fastball to set up his out pitch, a hard, late-breaking slider, and his change-up is improving. Desilva, 24, has had great success while advancing from Class A to Triple-A the past two seasons (23-15, 3.02 ERA, 325 K's and 97 BB in 313 IP).

TOP PROSPECTS: RICO BROGNA, 1B (AAA-AA) — Bothered by a sore hip and demoted after a poor start in Triple-A, he eventually salvaged last season (.256, 15 HR, 64 RBIs). Brogna, 22, has the quick lefthanded swing and strength to generate 25-homer power as he becomes adept at pulling the ball. He has Gold Glove possibilities at first base. **JUSTIN THOMPSON**, LHP (Rookie) — The fifth lefty drafted last June, he showed an 87-mph fastball and natural breaking pitch last season (2-5, 3.60 ERA, 60 K's and 24 BB in 50 IP). Thompson, 19, projects as a power starter once his 6-3, 175-pound frame fills out. **STEVE PEGUES**, OF (AAA-AA) — Drafted ahead of Travis Fryman in 1987, he has been slow to refine a looping swing and has walked only 23 times in 921 at-bats the past two years (.263, 10 HR, 49 RBIs in '91). Pegues, 23, shows flashes, like seven hits in a game last April. He has alley power, runs well and can throw from right field. **RICCARDO INGRAM**, OF (AA) — An All-Atlantic Coast Conference football player in 1986 as a defensive back at Georgia Tech, he was a baseball bust until last season (.271, 18 HR, 64 RBIs). Ingram, 25, quit trying to pull every pitch, improving his plate coverage and giving him a chance on breaking pitches. He has righthanded power potential and runs well, but is not a basestealer.

WORTH WATCHING: Shawn Hare, OF (AAA-AA); Kurt Knudsen, RHP (AAA-AA); Greg Haeger, LHP (A); Joe Perona, C (A-Rookie); Art Adams, RHP (Rookie); Tarrick Brock, OF (Rookie)

GRADE: C-

AL WEST

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

AFFILIATES: Tacoma, Wash. (AAA); Huntsville, Ala. (AA); Modesto, Calif. (A); Reno, Calif. (A); Madison, Wis. (A); Southern Oregon (short season); Scottsdale, Ariz. (short season)

The Athletics developed players like Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Terry Steinbach, Walt Weiss, Felix Jose, Mickey Tettleton and Luis Polonia in the 1980s, but didn't have similar success with pitchers. Their few significant pitching prospects — Tim Belcher, Kevin Tapani, Scott Chiamparino — were used in trades for established major leaguers. Oakland used its windfall in the 1990 draft — seven of the first 66 selections — to address the arms issue, spending its first five picks on pitchers. None, though, were ready last season when the varsity was desperate for pitching, giving the A's little choice but to fill with fringe types like Dana Allison, John Briscoe, Bruce Walton and Johnny Guzman.

HELP THIS SEASON: TODD VAN POPPEL, RHP (AA) — One of the most touted prospects of the draft era, he had a poor record last season (6-13, 3.47 ERA, 115 K's and 90 BB in 132 IP) but showed more mental toughness and perseverance than could be expected from a 19-year-old pitching for a bad Double-A team. Once he's consistent in the strike zone with his 95-mph fastball, curve and change-up, Van Poppel should emerge as a Clemens-type dominator. He may be a dozen Triple-A starts from the A's rotation. **KIRK DRESSENDORFER**, RHP (AAA) — After 78 innings in two pro seasons, he had a surgeon last August tend to the abuse his right shoulder had taken in three years at the University of Texas. Dressendorfer, 23, made the A's rotation last spring before breaking down. Healthy again, he has the challenging fastball and sharp breaking pitches to be a solid major league starter. **SCOTT BROSIUS**, 3B (AAA) — If Carney Lansford's knee isn't sufficiently healed, Brosius, 25, could make the lineup. He has been a .289 hitter in the minors, has some life in his bat (23 HR in 1990) and showed promise at third base last season after his previous career as an erratic shortstop. **SCOTT HEMOND**, C (AAA) — He has a great arm behind the plate, is fast enough to steal bases (45 in 1989) and agile enough to play second base. The A's likely will keep Hemond, 26, because he's out of options, but he hasn't shown the bat (.255, 36 HR in six minor league seasons) to indicate he can become a regular.

TOP PROSPECTS: MIKE NEILL, OF (A) — A second-round draft choice last June, he is an accomplished left-handed hitter with quick hands and wrists and line-drive power to all fields. Neill was the second-best hitter in the NCAA last year (.468), won the Northwest League batting title (.350, 5 HR, 42 RBIs) and was the A's top hitter in the instructional league (.361). He has the arm to play right field. **DAVID ZANCANARO**, LHP (AA) — He can throw almost 90 mph and has an excellent change-up, which helped him survive last season (5-10, 3.38 ERA) despite having virtually no breaking pitch. Zancanaro, 23, is progressing quicker than expected, considering he has been pitching full-time for only two years. **SCOTT ERWIN**, RHP (AA-A) — Converted into a reliever after undergoing elbow surgery in 1990, he got a late start last season but quickly emerged as closer material (52 K's in 36 IP, .171 OBA). Erwin, 24, overpowers batters with a 95-mph fastball and hard slider.

WORTH WATCHING: Craig Paquette, 3B (AA); Don Peters, RHP (AA); Curtis Shaw, LHP (A); Scott Lydy, OF (A); Jason Wood, SS (A); Brent Gates, 2B (A)

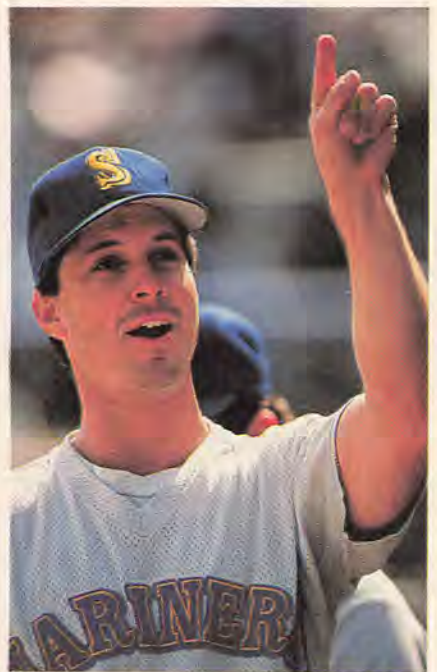
GRADE: A-

SEATTLE MARINERS

AFFILIATES: Calgary, Alberta (AAA); Jacksonville, Fla. (AA); San Bernardino, Calif. (A); Peninsula, Va. (A); Bellingham, Wash. (short season); Tempe, Ariz. (short season)

It may have taken the Mariners 15 years to achieve their first winning record, but the scouting and player development departments long have been on course. In annual surveys tracking major league players to their original farm systems, Seattle ranked ahead of Toronto, its 1977 expansion partner, until recent years. But while the Blue Jays have kept their best players, the Mariners have lost the likes of Mark Langston, Mike Moore, Dave Henderson and Ivan Calderon as a result of free agency and bad trades. Still, the system has been productive enough that this year's Opening Day lineup likely will be a home-grown unit except for Kevin Mitchell and Jay Buhner.

HELP THIS SEASON: TINO MARTINEZ, 1B (AAA) — He has been a hitting machine in Triple-A the past two seasons



Tino Martinez, Seattle

(.323, 35 HR, 179 RBIs), but a .211 flop in major league trials. Scouts are starting to question his bat speed, and Martinez, 24, hardly ingratiated himself with the organization by declining to go to winter ball, so he has a lot to prove this spring. He's OK at first base, but hardly another Pete O'Brien. **ROGER SALKELD**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He's one of the few prospects in the minors whom scouts confidently project as a 20-game winner. Salkeld, 21, throws in the mid-90 mph range and his curve, slider and change-up should be above-average pitches. He dominated at times last season (10-9, 3.28 ERA, 68 BB and 180 K's in 173 IP) and likely will be in the varsity rotation by June, if he doesn't make it this spring. **DAVE FLEMING**, LHP (AAA-AA) — A strong candidate to make the rotation this spring, he works the strike zone and changes speeds with a deceptive fastball and a solid curve and change-up. Since being drafted in 1990, Fleming, 22, has had great success (19-9, 2.56 ERA, .230 OBA), although some scouts question whether his fastball is strong enough for a starter. **PATRICK LENNON**, OF (AAA) — He's had injury and personal problems, but began to emerge last season (.329, 15 HR, 74 RBIs). Lennon, 24 in April, has power to all fields, but lacks a home-run loft in his swing. He needs another year in Triple-A, but is out of options and the Mariners are unlikely to risk losing him on waivers.

TOP PROSPECTS: MARC NEWFIELD, OF (AA-A) — He's rail-thin now but eventually could have a Frank Thomas-type body. Newfield, 19, already covers the plate well (.296, 11 HR, 70 RBIs last season) and has the quickness in his hands and wrists to generate all-fields power when he matures physically. He's learning left field, but probably is a first baseman. **BRET BOONE**, 2B (AA) — He showed a strong, aggressive bat last season (.255, 19 HR, 75 RBIs) but needs to curb his recklessness (123 K's). Boone, 23 in April, can play second base, and the Mariners want to find out if he can handle shortstop adequately enough to be considered there. **MICHAEL HAMPTON**, LHP (A) — He struggled, except for a no-hitter, at San Bernardino last season, then began to bloom after a demotion to Bellingham (5-2, 1.58 ERA, .162 OBA). Hampton, 19, stands only 5-10 but is strong and athletic, throws hard and has natural life on his pitches.

WORTH WATCHING: Anthony Manahan, SS (AA); Kerry Woodson, RHP (AA-A); Jim Converse, RHP (A); Alex Sutherland, C (A); Shawn Estes, LHP (A); Derek Lowe, RHP (Rookie)

GRADE: B

TEXAS RANGERS

AFFILIATES: Oklahoma City (AAA); Tulsa, Okla. (AA); Port Charlotte, Fla. (A); Gastonia, N.C. (A); Butte, Mont. (short season); Port Charlotte (short season)

Among players in the major leagues last season who

began their careers since 1986, 19 originated in the Texas organization—highest total among the 26 clubs. The most significant development for the Rangers was the emergence of Dean Palmer as an everyday player, their first draft choice to attain that status since the guy he replaced, Steve Buechele, who was drafted in 1982. No other organization, though, can match Texas' recent success in the Caribbean market. Ivan Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez joined Ruben Sierra in the Rangers' lineup last season, and Jose Guzman is the club's No. 2 starter. Additionally, Wilson Alvarez and Sammy Sosa of the White Sox originally signed with Texas.

HELP THIS SEASON: HECTOR FAJARDO, RHP (AAA-AA-A) — Part of the payment from Pittsburgh for Buechele last August, he wound up pitching for four minor league clubs (8-8, 3.19, .213 OBA, 151 K's and 52 BB in 138 IP) plus the Pirates and Rangers. Fajardo, 21, a native of Mexico, works aggressively with a fastball, split-finger pitch and change-up and has enough command to challenge for a spot in the varsity rotation. **MONTY FARISS, OF (AAA)** — The Rangers had hoped he would develop as a power-hitting middle infielder, but Fariss, 24, has proved to be inadequate at shortstop and second base. Next stop is left field, where he could break in as a platoon player while honing a sometimes reckless swing (.271, 13 HR, 73 RBIs, 143 K's last season). **DAN SMITH, LHP (AAA)** — A first-round draft choice in 1990, he lost confidence in his fastball last season (4-17, 5.52 ERA, .315 OBA) but got back on course in the instructional league and could be ready by July. Smith, 23, doesn't have a power arm, but throws hard enough to challenge hitters inside and set up his curve and knuckle-curve.

TOP PROSPECTS: KURT MILLER, RHP (A) — Considered the second-best high school pitching prospect in the 1990 draft (behind Todd Van Poppel), he was the key return from Pittsburgh for Buechele. Miller, 19, has the arm and textbook delivery to become a No. 1 starter with three strike-out pitches (fastball, curve, change-up), showing a glimpse of that potential last season (6-7, 2.50 ERA, .208 OBA, 103 K's and 57 BB in 115 IP). **BENJI GIL, SS (R)** — A first-round draft choice last June, he has quick actions at shortstop and a good enough arm that some clubs considered him as a pitcher. Gil, 19, showed a live bat and base-stealing instincts last season (.287, 2 HR, 15 RBIs, 9 SB in 129 AB) and, at 6-2, 180 pounds, has the wiry strength to eventually reach double figures in home runs. **TERRELL LOWERY, OF (A)** — Drafted last June, he showed vast potential as a centerfielder with power and speed (.299, 3 HR, 33 RBIs, 23 SB). The Rangers likely will have to decide whether the 6-2 Lowery is worth a bidding war. A high-scoring guard on Loyola Marymount's basketball team, he could be a first-round choice in the NBA draft. **JOSE OLIVA, 3B (A)** — Scouts say nine home runs in the Florida State League is a sign of major league power potential, and Oliva, 22, did better than that last season (.240, 14 HR, 59 RBIs). The Dominican Republic native hardly lacks for confidence, once boasting, "I can hit the devil himself." He has a plus arm and can play third base if he weighs 200 pounds, 18 less than last year.

WORTH WATCHING: Rob Maurer, 1B (AAA); Dan Peltier, OF (AAA); Donald Harris, OF (AA); Bobby Reed, RHP (AA); Eric McCray, LHP (AA); Cris Colon, SS (AA-A)

GRADE: B-

MINNESOTA TWINS

AFFILIATES: Portland, Ore. (AAA); Orlando, Fla. (AA); Visalia, Calif. (A); Kenosha, Wis. (A); Elizabethton, Tenn. (short season); Fort Myers, Fla. (short season)

There were only 29 players in the major leagues last season who began their careers in the Twins organization. That total ranked 25th, just ahead of the Chicago White Sox's 28. While the Twins system hasn't produced in quantity, it has provided quality players. The latest are Chuck Knoblauch and Scott Erickson, following the 1980s group of Kirby Puckett, Kent Hrbek, Gary Gaetti and Frank Viola. The homegrown talent has provided the base for two World Series championships in the past five years. What if they knew how to draft in the first round? Before Knoblauch in 1989, the Twins hadn't drafted a player in the first round who has emerged as a significant major leaguer since Jay Bell in 1984.

HELP THIS SEASON: WILLIE BANKS, RHP (AAA) — He has a power fastball, knee-buckling overhand curve and deceptive change-up, but hasn't shown he can pitch ahead in the count often enough to be successful. While Banks, 23, was inconsistent last season (9-8, 4.55 ERA, 63 K's and 76 BB in 146 IP), the Twins saw enough progress to think he can be ready sometime this year. **DENNY NEAGLE, LHP (AAA)** — He doesn't have Banks' arm, but has great command and throws hard enough for his slider and circle change-up to be effective. A 20-game winner in 1990, Nea-

Todd Van Poppel, Oakland



FARM REPORT

gle, 23, was effective again last season (9-4, 3.27 ERA, 94 K's and 32 BB in 105 IP) and is ready to compete for a spot in the Twins' rotation. **RICH GARCÉS**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He led the minors in saves (36) in 1990 but worked only 29 innings last season after reporting 20 pounds overweight, going AWOL twice by June and missing the final two months because of a nerve problem in his pitching elbow. All will be forgiven quickly if Garcés, 21 in May, again shows he can dominate hitters with a 92-mph fastball, curve and change-up. **LENNY WEBSTER**, C (AAA) — An overachiever, he has no outstanding skills but catches and throws better than Brian Harper. Webster, 27, is a bottom-of-the-order hitter who makes contact and has occasional power (.252, 7 HR, 34 RBIs last season).

TOP PROSPECTS: DAVID MCCARTY, 1B (AA-AA) — The third player drafted last June, he is a 6-5, 230-pound right-handed hitter with middle-of-the-order power potential. McCarty adjusted quickly to a wood bat (.304, 6 HR, 19 RBIs in 138 AB) and began learning right field, since he will be ready long before Kent Hrbek's contract expires in 1994. **PAT MAHOMES**, RHP (AAA-AA) — One of the best athletes in the organization, he has a live 88-90 mph fastball, hard slider and developing change-up. Batters hit only .211 and struck out 177 times against Mahomes, 21, last season, but he needs better command (11-10, 2.32 ERA, 93 BB in 171 IP). **MIDRE CUMMINGS**, OF (A) — The fastest player in the organization, he won the Midwest League batting title last season (.322, 4 HR, 54 RBIs, 28 SB). Cummings, 20, a native of the Virgin Islands, has exceptional bat speed and the size (6-2, 200) to hit for power as he develops. He's raw in center field, but has the tools for the position.

WORTH WATCHING: Alan Newman, LHP (AA-A); Pedro Grifol, C (AA-Rookie); Todd Ritchie, RHP (A); Rich Becker, OF (A); Scott Stahoviak, 3B (A); Rex Delanuez, OF (A).

GRADE: C+

CALIFORNIA ANGELS

AFFILIATES: Edmonton, Alberta (AAA); Midland, Texas (AA); Palm Springs, Calif. (A); Quad City, Iowa (A); Boise, Idaho (short season); Mesa, Ariz. (short season)

Jim Abbott is the only significant major leaguer among players who began their pro careers in the Angels organization in the past six years. Developing everyday players has been even more difficult for California, which has only Wally Joyner, Dick Schofield and Devon White to show for its efforts since 1980. Despite lip service that they intend to build through the farm system, the Angels have traded top pitching prospects each of the past two off-seasons — righthander Marcus Moore to Toronto in 1990 and lefthander Kyle Abbott to Philadelphia in 1991. They have regained righthander Dave Holdridge, drafting the erstwhile prospect from the pool of unprotected players at the winter meetings, three years after trading him for Lance Parrish. California also drafted Tim Fortugno, a 30-year-old lefthander who has averaged 11.5 strikeouts and 6.3 walks per nine innings in six minor-league seasons.

HELP THIS SEASON: LEE STEVENS, 1B (AAA) — After his two-month struggle (.214) in 1990 as a stand-in for injured Wally Joyner, Stevens returned to Edmonton last season to shorten his long, looping lefthanded swing. By not trying to pull everything, he hit .300 for the first time and retained his power (.314, 19 HR, 96 RBIs). Stevens, 24, had become an adequate outfielder, but with Joyner gone, can move back to his natural position. **GARY DISARCINA**, SS (AAA) — While he doesn't have above-average defensive skills, he's not lacking in any area and is consistent enough to be an everyday player. If he's still blocked by Schofield, DiSarcina, 24, fits in as a reserve because he also can fill in at second and third. He has an occasional line drive in his bat and runs well (.312, 29 extra-base hits, 16 SB last season).

TOP PROSPECTS: TROY PERCIVAL, RHP (A) — A .200-hitting catcher after signing in 1990, he was converted into a pitcher that fall and emerged last season as a dominating closer at Boise (1.41 ERA, 12 saves, 18 BB and 63 K's in 38 IP). Percival, 22, throws in the mid-90 mph range and effects hard rotation on his curve. He picked up the mechanics and arm action for pitching so quickly, scouts say he could advance as rapidly as Bryan Harvey did. **TIM SALMON**, OF (AA) — He has five major league tools, but tries so many batting stances that he's usually confused at the plate. Salmon, 23, could develop into an impact-type rightfielder if he builds off last season (.245, 23 HR, 94 RBIs, 166 K's). **KEVIN FLORA**, 2B (AA) — The fastest player in the organization, he began to swing with some authority last season (.285, 12 HR, 67 RBIs, 40 SB) after a four-year average of .226. Flora, 22, a converted shortstop, has the arm and actions to become the Angels' first legitimate second baseman since Bobby Grich. **GARRET ANDERSON**, OF (A) — He struggled last season (.260, 2 HR, 42 RBIs) but scouts said Anderson, 19, was one of the most impressive hitting prospects in the Arizona Instructional League. He has the

body and lefthanded swing to become a big run-producer and power hitter as a leftfielder. **EDUARDO PEREZ**, OF (A) — Son of Tony Perez, he was a first-round draft choice last June whom scouts envision as a .300-type hitter with 20-25 homer power. Perez (.288, 1 HR, 22 RBIs at Boise last season) is a superb athlete who plays so instinctively that the Angels moved him from first base to center field and may try him at third base.

WORTH WATCHING: Damion Easley, SS (AA); Phil Lettich, RHP (AA-A); Hilly Hathaway, LHP (A); J.R. Phillips, 1B (A); Clifton Garrett, OF (A); Jorge Fabregas, C (1992 first season)

GRADE: C

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

AFFILIATES: Vancouver (AAA); Birmingham, Ala. (AA); Sarasota, Fla. (A); South Bend, Ind. (A); Utica, N.Y. (short season); Sarasota, Fla. (short season)

The White Sox certainly deserve credit for spending first-round draft choices on Jack McDowell, Robin Ventura, Frank Thomas and Alex Fernandez from 1987 to 1990. Those four, however, are the only players from those Sox drafts who have made it to the major leagues, and each had been in a high-level college program. Except for Ron Karkovice and Scott Radinsky, the Sox haven't developed a high-school draft choice of note since Harold Baines, the first selection in the 1977 draft. It hardly is a surprise that only 28 players in the major leagues last season began their careers in the Sox system — low total among all organizations. Except for some pitching, the system is barren. Scouts have trouble identifying a position player who might become a major league regular.

HELP THIS SEASON: ROBERTO HERNANDEZ, RHP (AAA-AA) — He had bypass surgery for a life-threatening blood clot in his pitching shoulder last June, was back to work by August and had enough of a season (6-2, 2.78 ERA) to earn his first major league trial. If he throws strikes this spring, Hernandez, 27, will have a role, maybe in the rotation. He has more natural movement on his sinker and split-finger than many major leaguers. **JEFF CARTER**, RHP (AAA) — Some scouts think he could be a Barry Jones-type setup man if Carter, 27, realizes his fastball and forkball are major league pitches. He nibbled too much last season (3-7, 3.05 ERA) and was hit at a .262 clip. **ESTEBAN BELTRE**, SS (AAA) — A Dominican Republic native, he has a Shawon Dunston-type arm but needs to curb his reckless flair (39 errors last season) to make the club as a spare. A .219 hitter in seven years in the Montreal system, Beltre, 24, had the bat knocked out of his hands less frequently in 1991 (.254).

TOP PROSPECTS: JOHNNY RUFFIN, RHP (A) — He's built like Dwight Gooden but thinner, throws 93 mph, has a hard bend in his over-the-top curve and is perfecting a change-up. Only 20 but with four pro seasons behind him, Ruffin began to locate the strike zone and dominate in 1991 (11-4, 3.23 ERA, .217 OBA), pitching a no-hitter, two-hitter and three-hitter. **RODNEY BOLTON**, RHP (AA-A) — He wasn't highly regarded as a senior at the University of Kentucky, but after two pro seasons has a 25-12 record and 1.60 ERA, including 15-10, 1.78 and a share of the minor-league lead in shutouts (4) last year. Bolton, 23, isn't a 90-mph thrower, but has the command and intelligence to set up batters with a fastball, slider and change-up. **MIKE ROBERTSON**, 1B (A) — Drafted last June, he has a line-drive stroke from both sides of the plate and uses the whole field (.295, 1 HR, 34 RBIs in 67 games in '91). Scouts think Robertson, 21, could mature into some power. He has sure hands and will be considered an adequate first baseman if he continues to hit. **SCOTT RUFFCORN**, RHP (A-Rookie) — He was the 25th player drafted last June, but probably would have been among the top five if not for a sore elbow that cost him a month of Baylor's season. By September, Ruffcorn had regained his 91-mph cut fastball and sharp breaking pitch, striking out 60 in 55 innings and limiting batters to a .205 average along the way. He's expected to advance quickly.

WORTH WATCHING: Brandon Wilson, SS (AA-A); Danny Matznick, RHP (A); Rolando Caridad, RHP (A); Charles Poe, OF (A); Clemente Alvarez, C (A); Troy Fryman, 1B (A).

GRADE: C-

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

AFFILIATES: Omaha, Neb. (AAA); Memphis, Tenn. (AA); Baseball City, Fla. (A); Appleton, Wis. (A); Eugene, Ore. (short season); Baseball City (short season)

There were 48 products of the Royals farm system in the major leagues last season, which tied Kansas City with the Yankees for the lead among American League clubs. However, in the what-have-you-done-for-us-lately category, the Royals system had slipped so badly that management went about filling four everyday positions in December by trad-

ing Bret Saberhagen and signing Wally Joyner as a free agent. From Kansas City's last six drafts, only Bo Jackson has proved to be an everyday player, and the pitching help has been limited to Kevin Appier, Tom Gordon, Greg Hibbard and Mike Magnante. Touted power-hitting prospects Jeff Conine and Bob Hamelin have suffered injuries and fallen by the wayside.

HELP THIS SEASON: JOEL JOHNSTON, RHP (AAA) — He struggled last season (4-7, 5.21 ERA, 8 saves) but made marked progress in the second half after altering his delivery, which added life to his 90-mph fastball and bite to his slider. Johnston, 25, had an impressive September with KC (0.40 ERA, 21 K's and 9 BB in 22 IP). A middle man for now, he eventually could be the closer. **SEAN BERRY**, 3B (AAA) — He has no great skills, but has improved steadily in six years in the system. Berry, 26, drives the ball into the gaps (.264, 11 HR, 54 RBIs last season), runs well (37 SB in 1989) and has enough arm and quickness to be an adequate defender on artificial turf. **PHIL HIATT**, 3B (AA-A) — A better prospect than Berry, though not as advanced, he will get a chance this spring. Hiatt, 23 in May, has the power lift in his swing and runs well enough to be a 20/20 man, but needs to show more selectivity at the plate than he did last season (.271, 11 HR, 66 RBIs, 34 SB, 133 K's and 31 BB in 521 AB). With improved footwork, he can be OK at third.

TOP PROSPECTS: DARREN BURTON, OF (A) — A five-tool prospect, he reminds some scouts of a young Andy Van Slyke. Burton, 19, showed gap power and speed last season (.269, 32 2B, 2 HR, 51 RBIs, 37 SB) and eventually could have 15-20 homer power. He's a legitimate center-fielder and has the arm strength for right field. **DOUG HARRIS**, RHP (A) — Converted into a pitcher during his college career at James Madison and drafted in 1990, he emerged as a significant prospect last season (12-8, 2.39 ERA, 123 K's and 37 BB in 162 IP). Harris, 22, has a superb sinking fastball and deceptive change-up, but needs to sharpen his slider. **KERWIN MOORE**, OF (A) — He hit .210 and struck out 141 times last season, yet led the Florida State League in stolen bases (61). If he solves breaking pitches, Moore, 21, has the size (6-1, 190) and strength to be more than a slap hitter. A weak arm limits him to left field. **JOE VITIELLO**, 1B (AA-A) — The seventh player drafted last June, he has huge power potential from the right side, but limited his progress last season (.250, 6 HR, 39 RBIs in 192 ABs) by taking too many pitches while looking for one to pull. Vitiello is being tried in the outfield, but probably is too slow for any position except first base.

WORTH WATCHING: Archie Corbin, RHP (AA); Hipolito Pichardo, RHP (AA); Joe Randa, 3B (A); Tom Smith, OF (A); Jason Pruitt, RHP (A); Ryan Long, 3B (Rookie).

GRADE: D

NL EAST

MONTREAL EXPOS

AFFILIATES: Indianapolis (AAA); Harrisburg, Pa. (AA); West Palm Beach, Fla. (A); Rockford, Ill. (A); Albany, Ga. (A); Jamestown, N.Y. (short season); Bradenton, Fla. (short season)

As it turns out, players aren't the only ones who flee Montreal. General manager Dave Dombrowski bolted for the expansion Florida Marlins last fall, and 11 of his key people, including scouting director Gary Hughes, followed. They left Montreal with one of the industry's best scouting and player-development programs. The Expos have been pushing players into the big leagues at a steady pace in recent years, and the flow should continue. Still in the embryonic stage is the 1990 draft class, which includes 10 of the first 53 players selected that June. All 10, though, haven't gotten off as quickly as lefty Chris Haney, who made 16 starts for the Expos last season, and Rondell White, one of the game's top outfield prospects. Third baseman Shane Andrews, the top selection, showed up last spring looking like a blimp, righthander Stan Spencer needed elbow surgery, and lefty Ben Vanryn was discarded in a minor league trade. On another front, three prospects who missed last season because of injuries — catcher Greg Colbrunn, outfielder Moises Alou and righthander Hector Rivera — are due back this spring.

HELP THIS SEASON: WILFREDO CORDERO, SS (AAA) — At 20, he's played four years (.261, 11 HR, 52 RBIs in '91) and is ready to join Delino DeShields as Montreal's first home-grown keystone combination. Cordero has a quick power jolt in his bat to become a 20-homer man. He is a smooth, instinctive fielder, but needs to hone his concentration (26 errors). **MATT STAIRS**, OF (AA) — The Eastern



League batting champion last season (.333, 13 HR, 53 extra-base hits, 78 RBIs, 23 SB), he drives the ball to all fields with a quick, aggressive swing and, of particular interest to the Expos, is a Canadian. Having shown little ability to play second or third base, Stairs, 23, will be tried in left field. **DAVE WAINHOUSE**, RHP (AAA-AA) — A first-round draft choice in 1988, he had struggled as a starter, but adapted quickly to a closer's role last season (3.11 ERA, 12 saves, 59 K's and 32 BB in 81 IP). Wainhouse, 24, has the heavy fastball and hard slider to deaden bats when he stays ahead in the count.

TOP PROSPECTS: RONDELL WHITE, OF (A) — Some scouts say he could be a righthanded-hitting Barry Bonds and others say he's the next Andre Dawson, minus a great arm. White, 20, has a strong, natural swing and base-stealing speed (.262, 13 HR, 68 RBIs, 50 SB last season). He's a terrific flychaser in center, but has below-average arm strength. **REID CORNELIUS**, RHP (AA-A) — He has the ability to become a No. 1 starter, but has missed time in each of his three seasons because of arm soreness. Cornelius, 21, was able to work 128 innings last year (10-4, 2.46 ERA, 93 K's and 50 BB). He can dominate games with his fastball, overhand curve and change-up, and has a great feel for pitching. **CLIFF FLOYD**, 1B (Rookie) — A first-round draft choice last June, he is a 6-4, 220-pound slugger who reminds scouts of a young Willie McCovey. Floyd, 19, has great bat speed and runs well for a big man (.262, 6 HR, 30 RBIs, 13 SB last season). He needs to smooth a hitch in his swing, and has a lot of work to do at first base. **GABE WHITE**, LHP (A) — The Expos' third draft choice in 1990, he is developing quickly as a power pitcher (6-9, 3.26 ERA, 140 K's and 53 BB in 149 IP last season). White, 20, has a live fastball and good rotation on his curve, and superb control enabled him to work five complete games in '91 before expending his pitch count.

WORTH WATCHING: Chris Martin, SS (AA); Chris Johnson, RHP (AA); Jon Hurst, LHP (AA-A); Tavo Alvarez, RHP (A); Shane Andrews, 3B (A); Glen Murray, OF (A)

GRADE: A-

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Wilfredo Cordero,
Montreal

AFFILIATES: Louisville (AAA); Little Rock, Ark. (AA); St. Petersburg, Fla. (A); Springfield, Ill. (A); Savannah, Ga. (A); Hamilton, Ontario (short season); Johnson City, Tenn. (short season); Peoria, Ariz. (short season)

Cris Carpenter and Jeff Fassero (Montreal) were steady relievers last season, but Joe Magrane is the only pitcher originally signed by the Cardinals to really make it big since Todd Worrell, who was drafted in 1982. However, arms appear to be on the way. The Cardinals were encouraged by Rheal Cormier's audition last summer, and scouts say he was probably the fifth-best pitching prospect on St. Louis' top two farm clubs. However, the careers of several outfield prospects are on hold. Paul Coleman, the sixth player drafted in 1989, and Terry Bradshaw, who stole 65 bases in 1991, likely will miss this season while recovering from knee surgeries. And the Cardinals don't know what to expect from Brian Jordan, who could be their leftfielder if he would give up his job as a starting safety with the Atlanta Falcons. The last two drafts have provided the Cardinals with great opportunity to increase their store of prospects. They made three of the first 30 selections in 1990 and six of the first 46 last June.

HELP THIS SEASON: DONOVAN OSBORNE, LHP (AA) — The second lefthander drafted in 1990, he throws strikes with an 88-90-mph fastball and a hard slider. Osborne, 22, needed a change-up, which he developed last season (8-12, 3.63 ERA, 130 K's and 43 BB in 166 IP), helping him recover from a 1-7, 5.16 start. He should be ready by midseason. **MARK CLARK**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He missed spring training last year because of a broken ankle, but eventually got back on track (8-7, 3.68 ERA, 105 K's and 45 BB in 137 IP). Clark, 23, challenges with his 88-mph fastball, then goes to a slider and change-up. He might be ready this spring. **MIKE MILCHIN**, LHP (AAA-AA) — He cleared Double-A after six starts last season (3-2, 3.06 ERA), but was timid about challenging hitters in Triple-A (5-9, 5.09). Milchichin, 24, doesn't have an overpowering fastball, but it's good enough to set up his slider and change-up, which are out pitches when he's ahead in the count.

TOP PROSPECTS: JOHN ERICKS, RHP (AA) — Elbow surgery cost him most of the 1990 season and command problems plagued him last year (5-14, 4.77 ERA, 103 K's and 84 BB in 140 IP). Ericks, 24, has an overpowering fastball, but needs to prove he can throw his slider and change-up for strikes. **ALLEN WATSON**, LHP (A) — The fourth lefthander drafted last June, he has a solid fastball and

FARM REPORT

superb command of a slider and change-up. Scouts who saw Watson, 21, last year (2-2, 2.89 ERA, 58 K's and 25 BB in 53 IP) say he could be ready for a major league audition later this season. **DMITRI YOUNG**, 3B (Rookie) — The fourth player drafted last spring, he is a 6-2, 215-pound, switch-hitting version of Kevin Mitchell. Young, 18, showed the quickness and iron in his hands and wrists last season (.256, 2 HR, 22 RBIs in 129 AB) to indicate he can hit for a high average and generate big power. A stiff third baseman, he probably will land in left field. **EDDIE WILLIAMS**, C (Rookie) — A native of the Virgin Islands who attended high school in Florida, he is a rangy (6-3, 220), active receiver and throws with a strong arm. Williams, 20, got only 70 at-bats (.314, 2 HR, 10 RBIs) before suffering a thumb injury last season. He drives the ball from both sides of the plate, showing more power from the left side.

WORTH WATCHING: Stan Royer, 3B (AAA); Aaron Holbert, SS (A); Mateo Ozuna, 2B (A); Basil Shabazz, OF (Rookie); Brian Barber, RHP (Rookie); Tom McKinnon, RHP (Rookie)

GRADE: B

CHICAGO CUBS

AFFILIATES: Des Moines, Iowa (AAA); Charlotte, N.C. (AA); Winston-Salem, N.C. (A); Peoria, Ill. (A); Geneva, N.Y. (short season); Huntington, W.Va. (short season)

There were 324 players in the major leagues last season whose pro careers have begun since 1986. Only eight were signed originally by the Cubs — the lowest total among all organizations. The Cubs have gone to the free-agent market

for Danny Jackson, Dave Smith and Mike Morgan the past two years because they've been unable to develop a significant pitcher since Greg Maddux, who was drafted in 1984. The 1985-86 signings included Mark Grace, Rafael Palmeiro, Joe Girardi, Rick Wilkins and Hector Villanueva — the last position players to emerge. Infielder Ty Griffin and outfielder Earl Cunningham, the top draft choices in 1988 and 1989, are so lightly regarded that neither was picked up by another organization in the Rule 5 draft at the winter meetings last December. The farm system went sour during Jim Frey's tenure as general manager. His successor, Larry Himes, is well-grounded in player development and has a top scouting director in Dick Balderson.

HELP THIS SEASON: LANCE DICKSON, LHP (AAA) — He will make the rotation this spring if his change-up has improved enough to offset an 87-mph fastball and a curve that is a major league strikeout pitch. A broken right foot cost Dickson, 22, two months last season (4-4, 3.11 ERA, 101 K's and 57 BB in 101 IP), but he had a superb winter in Puerto Rico. **GARY SCOTT**, 3B (AAA) — He played himself into the Cubs' lineup last spring, but was sent to Iowa after batting .165 in 31 games. Scott, 23, didn't recover well (.208, 3 HR, 34 RBIs) and was further set back by a broken right hand. Scouts still think he can be a .270 hitter with 15-homer power, and he does everything above average at third base. **TURK WENDELL**, RHP (AAA-AA) — Acquired from Atlanta last September, he doesn't have overwhelming stuff but throws strikes and works aggressively with four average pitches. As he emerged last season (11-5, 2.66 ERA, 140 K's and 67 BB in 169 IP), Wendell, 24, gained fame for his Mark Fidrych-type eccentricities, but scouts say he doesn't distract a game.

TOP PROSPECTS: PEDRO CASTELLANO, 3B (AA-AA) — A native of Venezuela, he has a quick right-side bat and adjusts well on breaking pitches. Castellano, 22, doesn't figure to be a big power hitter, but could continue to be as productive as he was last season (.308, 10 HR, 89 RBIs). While he doesn't have Scott's actions and arm, he can play

third base and is quick enough to fill in at short. **RYAN HAWBLITZEL**, RHP (AA-A) — The most successful pitcher in the system last season (16-4, 2.57 ERA, 128 K's and 59 BB in 168 IP), he has three solid pitches and is adept at working in the strike zone. Hawblitzel, 22, stays ahead in the count with an average fastball and gets outs with a curve and change-up, both plus pitches. **TIM PARKER**, RHP (AA) — He has a better arm than Dickson, though his curve isn't in the same class. Parker, 24, has the fastball and hook to become a strikeout-type pitcher if he learns to mix in more change-ups than he did last season (11-9, 3.73 ERA, 74 K's and 73 BB in 145 IP). **DOUG GLANVILLE**, OF (A) — The 12th player drafted last June, he adapted quickly to a wood bat (.303, 2 HR, 12 RBIs, 17 SB in 36 games) and could be the Cubs' leadoff hitter and centerfielder before long. Glanville, 21, is very quick in the strike zone, has the strength to develop some home run power and is a base-stealing threat. He plays center with a flowing gait and throws well enough.

WORTH WATCHING: Elvin Paulino, 1B (AA); Kevin Roberson, OF (AA); Jesse Hollins, RHP (A); Troy Bradford, RHP (A); Jose Vierra, 3B (A); Pedro Valdez, OF (Rookie)

GRADE: C+

NEW YORK METS

AFFILIATES: Tidewater, Va. (AAA); Binghamton, N.Y. (AA); Port St. Lucie, Fla. (A); Columbia, S.C. (A); Pittsfield, Mass. (short season); Kingsport, Tenn. (short season); Sarasota, Fla. (short season)

In the past 11 years, the Mets have drafted Roger Clemens, Rafael Palmeiro, Kal Daniels, Matt Williams, John Olerud, Scott Erickson, Eddie Zosky, Cal Eldred, Dan Wilson and Mike Kelly — but signed none of them. That helps explain why the Mets farm system hasn't delivered an everyday player since Gregg Jefferies, who was drafted in 1985, and virtually no pitchers since Dwight Gooden, Roger Mc-

Todd Hundley, New York Mets



Dowell, Randy Myers and Rick Aguilera from the 1982-83 drafts. Among pitchers who spent all of last season in the major leagues, the most recent contributions from the Mets were Aguilera, Jeff Innis and Joe Klink, all drafted in 1983. Since Gooden in 1982, the Mets have spent their first draft pick on a pitcher only once, selecting Dave Proctor in 1988, and he's needed elbow and shoulder surgeries. However, this frazzled player-development program could regain some respect this season if Todd Hundley, Chris Donnels, Anthony Young and Pete Schourek settle in as major leaguers. All were drafted in 1987, and the Mets still have hope for pitchers Terry Bross and John Johnstone and outfielder Pat Howell from that class.

HELP THIS SEASON: TODD HUNDLEY, C (AAA) — He's quick and fearless behind the plate, has soft hands and a gun arm, and calls a game with authority. Hundley, 22, likely has Gold Gloves in his future, and is growing into a switch-hitter with alley power from both sides (.273, 14 HR, 66 RBIs last season). **CHRIS DONNELLS, 3B (AAA)** — A grind-it-out type of player, he's a patient, solid hitter from the left side and shows occasional power (.303, 8 HR, 56 RBIs in 84 games last season). Donnels, 26, lacks quickness and arm strength, but can be adequate at third base if he hits. **ANTHONY YOUNG, RHP (AAA)** — A candidate for the rotation, he has a plus fastball and hard slider, but lacked a consistent off-speed pitch last season (7-9, 3.73 ERA, 93 K's and 67 BB in 164 IP). A superb athlete, Young, 26, once had opportunity to pursue an NFL career as a safety.

TOP PROSPECTS: JEROMY BURNITZ, OF (AA) — The only 30/30 man in the minors last season (.225, 31 HRs, 85 RBIs, 31 SB), he has a quick power stroke from the left side and steals bases more on technique and instinct than speed. Burnitz, 23, is a patient hitter (104 BB) but chases a lot of breaking balls (127 K's). He has enough arm for right field. **BROOK FORDYCE, C (A)** — He wore down in the Florida heat last season (.239, 7 HR, 55 RBIs), but scouts still envision a 15- to 20-homer man and an adequate receiver. Fordyce, 21, doesn't have Hundley's natural skills behind the plate and needs to improve his snap throw. **BUTCH HUSKEY, 3B (A)** — He reminds some scouts of Bobby Bonilla, but reported last spring at 280 pounds instead of 235. Once he got into shape, Huskey, 20, showed a glimpse of his potential (.287, 27 2B, 26 HR, 99 RBIs, 22 SB). A big, quick man who had accepted a scholarship from Oklahoma as a tight end, he generates great bat speed from the right side, sprints to first base in 4.2 seconds when fit, and is nimble, though unpolished (30 errors in '91), at third base. **BOBBY JONES, RHP (A)** — Drafted in the first round last June after a spectacular season at Fresno State (16-2, 1.88 ERA, 166 K's and 36 BB in 172 IP), he carves up the strike zone with four average pitches. Though his fastball is barely average, Jones, 21, has a great feel for pitching. He excelled quickly after signing (3-1, 1.85 ERA) and should advance rapidly.

WORTH WATCHING: Julio Valera, RHP (AAA); John Johnstone, RHP (AA); Jose Martinez, RHP (A); Julian Vasquez, RHP (A); Aaron Ledesma, SS (A); Al Shirley, OF (Rookie)

GRADE: C

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

AFFILIATES: Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (AAA); Reading, Pa. (AA); Clearwater, Fla. (A); Spartanburg, S.C. (A); Batavia, N.Y. (short season); Martinsville, Va. (short season)

The Phillies' player-development program stopped producing in the mid-1980s. The last player signed who became a major league regular was Ricky Jordan in 1983. The last good year for pitchers was 1984, when Pete Smith, Todd Frohwirth and Mike Jackson were signed. The best since then have been Bruce Ruffin, Chuck McElroy and Pat Combs. Part of the Phillies' problem is their dubious drafts. Their first choice in 1989 was 17-year-old Jeff Jackson, a raw outfielder from inner-city Chicago, instead of Frank Thomas. In 1990, they opted for 18-year-old Mike Lieberthal, a midget-sized catcher polished by competition in the southern California amateur ranks, instead of Alex Fernandez. Last year, Philadelphia's second choice, 54th overall, was shortstop Kevin Stocker, whom most scouts regarded as fifth-round material. And the organization that discovered George Bell, Juan Samuel and Julio Franco in the Dominican Republic barely recruits in Latin America anymore. The Phillies' top four farm clubs in 1991 included only five Latin players who began their pro careers in the system.

HELP THIS SEASON: KIM BATISTE, SS (AAA) — He makes solid contact and can steal a base (.292, 25 2B, 18 SB last season), though major league pitching will eat him up if he doesn't gain some patience (11 BB in 462 AB). Batiste, 24, has the requisite skills for short, but lacks consistency (38 errors in 1991). **ANDY ASHBY, RHP (AAA)** — A candidate for the rotation, he has a plus fastball and good rotation on his curve. Ashby, 24, dominated at times last season (11-11, 3.46 ERA, 113 K's and 60 BB in 161 IP) but



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FARM REPORT

lacked command in an eight-start audition with the Phillies. **KYLE ABBOTT**, LHP (AAA) — Part of the payment from California for Von Hayes, he challenges with an average fastball and showed a better curve last September than he had at Edmonton (14-10, 3.99 ERA, 120 K's and 46 BB in 180 IP). Abbott, 24, also is adept at mixing in his slider and straight change-up.

TOP PROSPECTS: TYLER GREEN, RHP (A) — The 10th player drafted last June, he throws 90 mph and has a knuckle-curve that Burt Hooton could admire. Green, 22, excelled in five starts last season (3-0, 1.29 ERA, 102 OBA) and should move up quickly, though some scouts question his competitive makeup. **BRAULIO CASTILLO**, OF (AAA-AA) — Acquired from the Dodgers last summer, he has five major league tools and could emerge as a star if he remains sober. After missing half the 1990 season while in an alcohol rehab program, Castillo, 23, got back on track last year (.308, 28 2B, 8 HR, 63 RBIs, 24 SB). **MIKE LIEBERTHAL**, C (A) — The third player drafted in 1990, he is a 5-11, 165-pound shortstop behind the plate and throws with a strong, accurate arm. Lieberthal, 20, makes solid contact (.295, 0 HR, 38 RBIs) but scouts don't think he'll be more than an opposite-field hitter. **JEFF JACKSON**, OF (A) — The fourth player drafted in 1989, he is a career .218 hitter and has averaged one strikeout per three at-bats. Jackson, 20, is built like Eric Davis and has similar tools, so it's too early to give up on him. But he has been slow to make adjustments with his quick bat (.225, 5 HR, 33 RBIs, 29 SB last season).

WORTH WATCHING: Bob Ayrault, RHP (AAA); Tony Longmire, OF (AAA-AA); Cliff Brantley, RHP (AAA-A); Mike Williams, RHP (AA-A); Joel Adamson, LHP (A); Tom Nuneviller, OF (A)

GRADE: C-

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

AFFILIATES: Buffalo, N.Y. (AAA); Zebulon, N.C. (AA); Salem, Va. (A); Augusta, Ga. (A); Welland, Ontario (short season); Bradenton, Fla. (short season)

The Pirates have mortgaged their farm system the past two years to obtain veteran help for pennant drives in Pittsburgh. Prospects Willie Greene, Moises Alou, Scott Ruskin, Wes Chamberlain, Julio Peguero and Tony Longmire were used in 1990 trades for Zane Smith and Carmelo Martinez. Kurt Miller and Hector Fajardo, the top pitching prospects in the organization, were sent to Texas last summer for Steve Buechele. Some scouts believe the righthanded Miller will be a 20-game winner in the major leagues, but he's at least two years away. By then the Pirates could be decimated by free-agent defections, so they have adopted a go-for-it-now philosophy. Pittsburgh long has been among the leaders in player development, although the firing of legendary scout Howie Haak several years ago has significantly diminished the Pirates' profile in Latin America.

HELP THIS SEASON: CARLOS GARCIA, SS (AAA) — He's ready, and may be kept as a backup. Garcia, 24, has extra-base power and can run (.266, 7 HR, 60 RBIs, 30 SB last season) and his wiry strength forecasts a 15-homer man. His range and hands are fine, but he needs to bring his strong arm under control (31 errors in '91). **JOE AUSANIO**, RHP (AAA-AA) — Groomed as a closer since signing in 1988, he can get ground balls and strikeouts with his sinker and split-finger pitch. Ausanio, 26, endured difficult times last season (3.55 ERA, 5 saves, 28 K's and 19 BB in 33 IP), afflicted by headaches and dizzy spells, in addition to worrying about a newborn son with bacterial meningitis.

TOP PROSPECTS: STEPHEN COOKE, LHP (AA-A) — He reminds some scouts of John Smiley, though he doesn't throw as hard. Cooke, 22, progressed well last season (9-7, 2.78 ERA, 103 K's and 56 BB in 129 IP), showing an 88-mph fastball with late action and a hammer-type curve regarded as the best in the system. **SCOTT BULLETT**, OF (A) — Built like Barry Bonds, he's the fastest player in the organization and makes solid contact from both sides of the plate (.298, 3 HR, 51 RBIs, 63 SB last year). Bullett, 23, eventually might have some left-side power. He can play center, though his arm is a bit short. **JON FARRELL**, OF (A) — The Pirates started to groom him as a catcher after drafting him in the first round last June, but decided Farrell, 20, fits best in center, where he has a graceful flow to the ball and superb arm. He has the quick wrists to be a fine hitter. Half his hits went for extra bases last season (.253, 8 HR, 35 RBIs in 241 AB). **KEVIN YOUNG**, 3B (AAA-AA-A) — The top hitter in the system last season (.328, 9 HR, 63 RBIs), he could emerge as a righthanded power hitter once he learns to use the lower half of his 6-2, 210-pound frame. He runs well, too, but Young, 22, lacks the hands and arm for third base (42 errors in '91) and likely will move to first. **MIKE ZIMMERMAN**, RHP (A) — He has the arm to be a dominating closer, throwing a 95-mph fastball and 85-mph slider, but is a mechanical mess. Zimmerman, 23, couldn't find the strike zone last season (4-2, 4.37 ERA, 9 saves, 63 K's and 72 BB in 70 IP) and could damage his arm if he doesn't smooth his delivery.

WORTH WATCHING: Blas Minor, RHP (AAA-AA); Daryl Ratliff, OF (AA-A); Ben Shelton, 1B (AA-A); Austin Manahan, 2B (A); Jeff McCurry, RHP (A); Joe Calder, 1B (Rookie)

GRADE: C-

NL WEST

ATLANTA BRAVES

AFFILIATES: Richmond, Va. (AAA); Greenville, S.C. (AA); Durham, N.C. (A); Macon, Ga. (A); Pulaski, Va. (short season); Idaho Falls (short season); Bradenton, Fla. (short season)

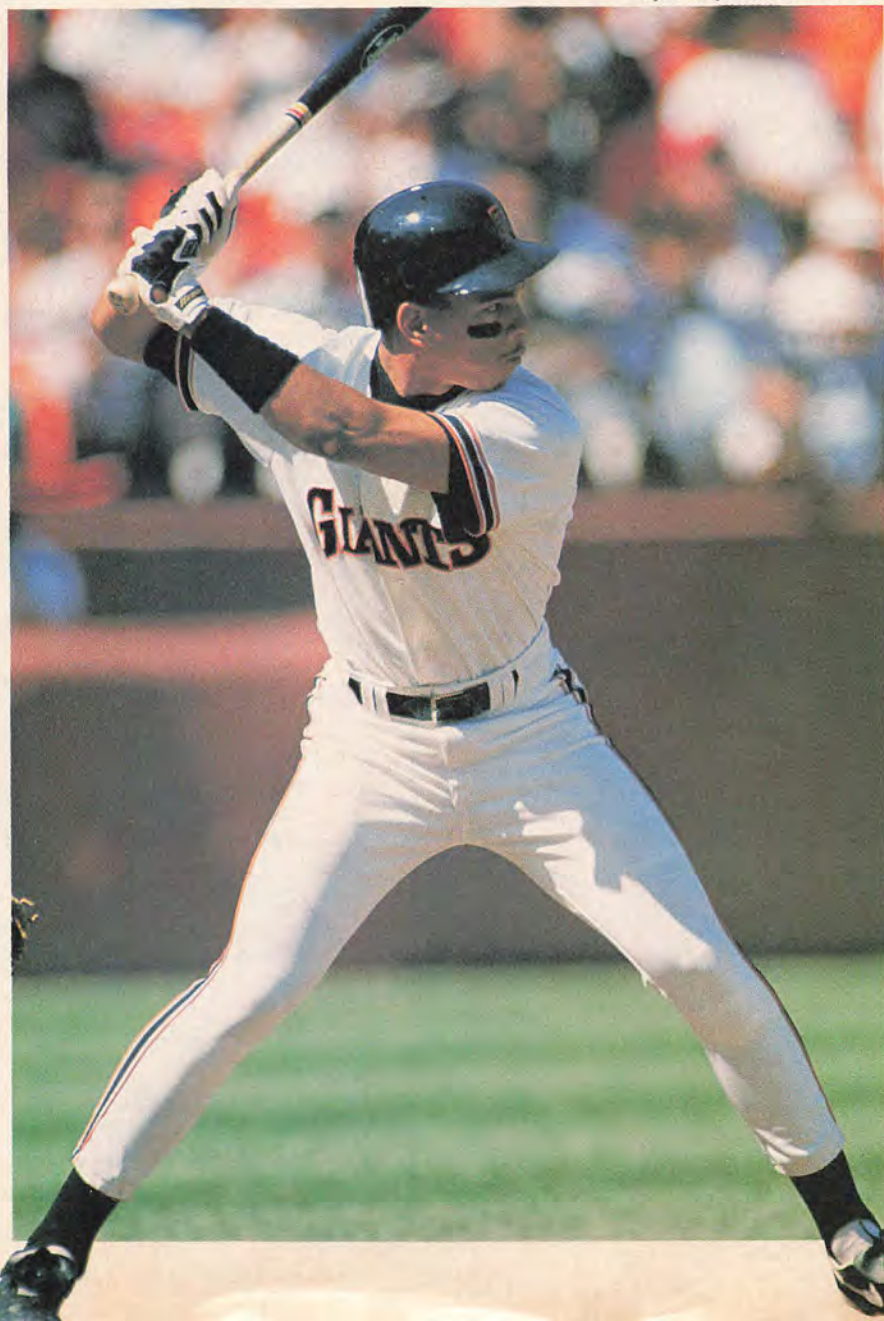
Once an organization that spent its first-round drafts on people like Bob Horner, Brad Komminsk, Jay Roberts and Drew Benson because they appeared capable of lofting homers over the fences at Fulton County Stadium, Atlanta changed its philosophy in the mid-1980s. Pitching became the highest priority, and position players needed more than one tool to be considered by the Braves. The result was on the field in the World Series last year. Tom Glavine, Steve

Avery, Mike Stanton, Kent Mercker, Mark Wohlers, Ron Gant, Dave Justice, Brian Hunter, Mark Lemke, Jeff Blauser and Keith Mitchell all are products of the Braves farm system. Atlanta, though, may have stumbled in the 1989 draft. Catcher Tyler Houston, the second player selected that June, has been a disappointment. And the two pitchers selected by the Braves in the second round, Tab Brown and Brian Boltz, missed last season.

HELP THIS SEASON: MARK WOHLERS, RHP (AAA-AA) — He was the most dominant closer in the minors last season (0.78 ERA, 32 saves in 33 opportunities, .167 OBA, 66 K's and 25 BB in 58 IP). Wohlers, 22, throws a fastball with riding action that has been clocked at 97 mph. He needs his hard slider, and was a bit timid about trusting it against major league batters last September. **KEITH MITCHELL**, OF (AAA-AA) — He lacks the brute power of his second cousin, Kevin Mitchell, but does everything else better. Mitchell, 22, has a live bat (.327, 12 HR, 64 RBIs) and can steal a base, although he runs recklessly. He has fly-chasing instincts for any of the outfield posts, but his arm fits best in left.

TOP PROSPECTS: RYAN KLESKO, 1B (AA) — Perhaps the top lefthanded power-hitting prospect in the minors, he was the Southern League MVP last season (.291, 22 2B, 14 HR, 67 RBIs, 14 SB). Klesko, 20, is maturing faster than most young sluggers because he uses the whole field and

Royce Clayton, San Francisco



rarely gives away an at-bat. He lacks polish at first base, but has a great arm, and scouts love his Kirk Gibson-type approach to the game. **CHIPPER JONES**, SS (A) — The first player drafted in 1990, he's a strong, aggressive hitter from both sides of the plate and has base-stealing speed (.326, 24 2B, 11 3B, 15 HR, 98 RBIs, 40 SB last season). Jones, 20, has the hands and actions to play shortstop, but had so much trouble throwing last year he made 56 errors. Progress was making only 23 in his final 67 games. **DAVE NIED**, RHP (AA-A) — Hewent AWOL for awhile in 1990, but came back last year and established himself as the top starting prospect in the system last season (15-6, 2.01 ERA, .202 OBA, 178 K's and 43 BB in 170 IP). Nied, 23, uses an 87-mph fastball to set up a good slurve and a major league change-up. **JAVIER LOPEZ**, C (A) — He's built like Sandy Alomar Jr. and has similar tools. Lopez, 21, swings a bit long and chases too many pitches (.245, 11 HR, 51 RBIs last season), but eventually could be a 20- to 25-homer man. He's mobile behind the plate and has an arm from the same mold as Puerto Rican centerfielder Alomar, Benito Santiago and Ivan Rodriguez. **MIKE KELLY**, OF (A) — The second player drafted last June, he has the lightning in his hands and wrists to be a .300 hitter with power, and runs well. Kelly, 22, signed late and still needs to get comfortable with a wood bat (.250, 6 HR, 17 RBIs, 6 SB in 35 games). He is a graceful centerfielder, though has no better than an average arm.

WORTH WATCHING: Napoleon Robinson, RHP (AA); Ben Rivera, RHP (AA); Tyler Houston, C (A); Melvin Nieves, OF (A); Matt Murray, RHP (A); Dennis Burlingame, RHP (A)

GRADE: A-

HOUSTON ASTROS

AFFILIATES: Tucson, Ariz. (AAA); Jackson, Miss. (AA); Kissimmee, Fla. (A); Asheville, N.C. (A); Burlington, Iowa (A); Auburn, N.Y. (short season); Kissimmee, Fla. (short season)

Even without Jeff Bagwell, who was pirated from the Red Sox in August 1990, the Astros would have had the best rookie crop in the major leagues last season. Andujar Cedeno and Luis Gonzalez became everyday players, and some fine young arms began to emerge from the farm system. From the group of Darryl Kile, Ryan Bowen, Jeff Juden, Brian Williams and Chris Gardner, the Astros are certain to find their first significant homegrown starter since Floyd Bannister, the first player drafted in 1976. However, Houston is likely to rue its decision to trade centerfielder Kenny Lofton, perhaps the top leadoff-hitting prospect in the game, for Eddie Taubensee, whose size 16 feet make it appear that he's catching in cement. The Astros also lost a top prospect when they failed to sign right-hander John Burke, their first draft choice last June. They had seven of the first 50 picks, and though it's still early, the group appears to have mundane quality.

HELP THIS SEASON: BRIAN WILLIAMS, RHP (AAA-AA-A) — An exceptional athlete, he bolted through the system last season (8-6, 3.59 ERA, 111 K's and 69 BB in 143 IP) and spent September with the Astros, having pitched only seven pro innings prior to 1991. Williams, 22, throws a 90-mph fastball with superb sinking action, has a sharp break on his curve and is developing a change-up. If he wasn't pitching, scouts say he could be a power-hitting prospect in right field. **JEFF JUDEN**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He doesn't have the overpowering stuff of Williams, Kile and Bowen, but the 6-7, 250-pound Juden, 21, intimidates with his 88-mph sinker, throws a change-up for strikes and is close with a curve. He dominated at times last season (9-5, 3.13 ERA, 126 K's and 69 BB in 152 IP). **CHRIS GARDNER**, RHP (AA) — He's had some arm problems, but was healthy last season (13-5, 3.15 ERA, 72 K's and 75 BB in 131 IP). Gardner, 23, is being considered for a closer's role. He throws close to 90 mph, and his best pitch is a cut fastball that has hard slider action, without the slider toll on his elbow. **SCOTT SERVAIS**, C (AAA) — Expected to be the right-handed bat in a platoon with Taubensee, he's a mobile receiver and unloads throws quick enough to enhance his average arm strength. Servais, 24, was a .235 hitter until last season (.324, 2 HR, 27 RBIs in 60 games) but doesn't have much drive in his swing.

TOP PROSPECTS: TOM NEVERS, SS (A) — An athlete who could have opted for a career in the NHL, he is a quick, strong hitter with run-producing potential (.251, 26 2B, 16 HR, 71 RBIs last season). Nevers, 20, made 51 errors, but showed adequate hands and a strong arm. Scouts think he will land at third base. **TODD JONES**, RHP (AA-A) — For sheer stuff, he has the best arm in the organization, but hasn't learned how to use it (8-7, 4.58 ERA, 89 K's and 74 BB in 128 IP last season). Jones, 24, throws a mid-90s fastball that has exceptional sinking action. The Astros plan to convert him into a closer this year at Tucson. **WILLIE ANSLEY**, OF (AA-A) — Headed for Oklahoma on a football scholarship before signing with the Astros in 1989, he

eventually could be a 20-homer/40-steals man. Ansley, 21, was interrupted by shoulder surgery last season (.208, 1 HR, 23 RBIs, 10 SB in 279 AB), going 4 for 46 after returning. His arm is playable only in left field.

WORTH WATCHING: Shane Reynolds, RHP (AA); Orlando Miller, SS (AA-A); Brian Griffiths, RHP (A); Gary Mota, OF (A); Jermaine Swinton, OF (A); Derrick Bottoms, LHP (Rookie)

GRADE: A-

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

AFFILIATES: Phoenix (AAA); Shreveport, La. (AA); San Jose, Calif. (A); Clinton, Iowa (A); Everett, Wash. (short season); Scottsdale, Ariz. (short season)

The Giants invited their top pitching prospects to a two-week clinic in Shreveport last September, hoping to expedite their progress to the major leagues. Every little bit helps. The organization hasn't developed much pitching since the 1983 (John Burkett, Jeff Robinson, Eric King), 1984 (Terry Mulholland) and 1985 (Trevor Wilson, Jeff Brantley, Dennis Cook) signing classes ran dry. The only pitcher originally signed by the Giants since 1986 to spend all of last season in the major leagues was Russ Swan. Rather than spend their top draft choices on pitchers, San Francisco has preferred people like Will Clark, Matt Williams and Royce Clayton in recent years. The Giants hardly can be criticized for that, but can be second-guessed for passing out a split-finger pitch to virtually everyone who raised his hand. A lot of those hands are on drooping arms now.

HELP THIS SEASON: ROYCE CLAYTON, SS (AA) — About a half-season away, he could be the next Barry Larkin. Clayton, 22, has a quick, strong bat from the right side and base-stealing speed (.280, 5 HR, 68 RBIs, 36 SB last season). He has sure hands, quick feet and plenty of arm at shortstop. **TED WOOD**, OF (AAA) — A candidate for left field, he has a line-drive stroke from the left side (.311, 38 2B, 11 HR, 109 RBIs last season) and eventually could fit in as a No. 2 hitter. Though not flashy on defense, Wood, 25, has sound fundamental skills and throws well enough to play any of the outfield positions. **KEVIN ROGERS**, LHP (AA) — Hampered by a tender shoulder last season (4-6, 3.36 ERA, 108 K's and 54 BB in 118 IP), he is close if his arm is OK. Rogers, 23, throws with average velocity, but his fastball has superb life. His hard slider is a strikeout pitch, and the Giants want him to junk a split-finger pitch in favor of a straight change-up.

TOP PROSPECTS: SALOMON TORRES, RHP (A) — A native of the Dominican Republic, he was the most dominating starter in the minors last season (16-5, 1.41 ERA, .195 OBA, 214 K's and 47 BB in 210 IP). His ERA was the best among starters, and he ranked second in strikeouts behind another Giants farmhand, Rich Huisman (216). At 6-0, 180 pounds, Torres, 20, lacks size for a righthanded starter, but his fastball, curve and change-up are superb pitches, and he has a great sense for his craft. **JOE ROSSELLI**, LHP (A) — A superb athlete who was headed for Arizona State to play football and baseball, he has a live fastball and throws a curve and change-up that show promise as strikeout pitches. Rosselli, 20 in May, got a late start last season because of a tender shoulder, but the injury didn't impede his progress (8-7, 3.10 ERA, 127 K's and 49 BB in 154 IP). **STEVE HOSEY**, OF (AA) — A 6-3, 215-pound cleanup hitter and base-stealing threat, he started to tighten his long swing and adjust for breaking pitches last season (.293, 17 HR, 74 RBIs, 25 SB). Hosey, 23, struck out 88 times, 51 fewer than in 1990, when he hit .232 at a lower level. He eventually could be a 30-homers/20-steals man in the majors, and play right field with a plus arm. **DEREK REID**, OF (A) — His whip-action swing and long-legged frame remind some scouts of a young Dave Winfield, though Reid, 22, is 3 inches shorter. He has line-drive power and base-stealing speed (.269, 4 HR, 65 RBIs, 27 SB last season) and can be a centerfielder, but needs more acumen in all phases of the game.

WORTH WATCHING: John Patterson, 2B (AA); Kevin McGehee, RHP (A); Rich Huisman, RHP (A); Eric Christopherson, C (A); Steve Whitaker, LHP (A); Adam Hyzdu, OF (A)

GRADE: B

CINCINNATI REDS

AFFILIATES: Nashville, Tenn. (AAA); Chattanooga, Tenn. (AA); Cedar Rapids, Iowa (A); Charleston, W.Va. (A); Billings, Mont. (short season); Princeton, W.Va. (short season)

While the Reds are moving a handful of quality prospects through their farm system, the depth is nothing like it was in the late 1970s and early '80s. To ensure a competitive team at Triple-A and have replacement parts for the varsity on hand, the Reds signed 17 minor league free agents during the offseason. Since Marge Schott became the Reds' principal owner in December 1984, the only player drafted

who has become a star is Barry Larkin. Jack Armstrong and Scott Scudder should be, but didn't get proper schooling in the farm system. Schott's indifference to scouting and player development ("Why do we need scouts? All they do is sit around and watch ballgames on an expense account.") has effectively stripped what once was a model program. Nobody wants to work for this man. About the only scouts left from the glory days are Gene Bennett and Larry Barton Jr., and all of the top development people have fled.

HELP THIS SEASON: REGGIE SANDERS, OF (AA) — Scouts have been calling him the next Eric Davis for two years. Sanders, 24, has a quick, natural power stroke from the right side, an extra gear on the bases and a gliding style in center field. Hampered by injuries last season (.315, 8 HR, 49 RBIs, 15 SB in 86 games), he may need a few months in Triple-A. **DAN WILSON**, C (AA-A) — An agile receiver with a strong, accurate arm and an instinct for calling a game, he is so good behind the plate that Lou Piniella wanted to call him up last year. How much Wilson, 23, will hit remains a question, though he drove the ball with some line-drive authority last season (.280, 30 2B, 5 HR, 67 RBIs). **MO SANFORD**, RHP (AAA-AA) — He's not the flame-thrower that his 6-6, 225-pound presence would suggest, but has plenty of fastball and a wicked curve that he will use anytime in the count. Sanford, 25, could use a change-up and better command. He dominated last season (10-4, 2.44 ERA, .196 OBA, 162 K's and 77 BB in 129 IP), leading minor-league starters in strikeouts per nine innings (11.3), and is 35-14 over the past three years.

TOP PROSPECTS: JOHN ROPER, RHP (A) — From the North Carolina backwoods, he was lightly scouted in high school and wasn't drafted until the 12th round in 1990. Roper, 20, since has gained velocity on his fastball, now a low-90s pitch that he uses inside to set up a terrific knuckle-curve. He had the best ERA (2.31) in the system last year (14-9, .200 OBA, 189 K's and 67 BB in 187 IP). **CALVIN REESE**, SS (Rookie) — A first-round draft choice last June, he has acrobatic skills at shortstop and a super arm. Reese, 19, broke in slowly (.238, 3 HR, 27 RBIs, 10 SB) but scouts say he could develop into a .280 hitter with 12- to 15-homer power and 30-steals speed. **TIM COSTO**, 3B (AA) — Acquired from the Indians last summer for Reggie Jefferson, he has the natural strength and lofting-type swing to become a 25- to 30-homer man, but has been slow to adjust to a wood bat (.276, 6 HR, 53 RBIs last season). A shortstop in college, Costo, 23, has played mostly first base in his two pro seasons, and now is going to third, where the Reds think he can be another Tim Lincecum. **TREVOR HOFFMAN**, RHP (AA-A) — Glenn Hoffman's little brother, he was a light-hitting shortstop on the verge of being released until going to the mound last season (1.88 ERA, 20 saves, 75 K's and 20 BB in 48 IP). Hoffman, 24, has been clocked throwing 95 mph and showed enough command last year that batters couldn't lay off his curve and slider.

WORTH WATCHING: Scott Bryant, OF (AA); Kevin Tatar, RHP (AA-A); Jason Satre, RHP (AA-A); Willie Greene, 3B (A); Craig Pueschner, OF (A); Brian Lane (Injured, did not play)

GRADE: C

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

AFFILIATES: Albuquerque (AAA); San Antonio (AA); Bakersfield, Calif. (A); Vero Beach, Fla. (A); Yakima, Wash. (short season); Great Falls, Mont. (short season); Kissimmee, Fla. (short season)

They had 88 players and 28 coaches in the instructional league last fall. They had 71 scouts listed in their 1991 media guide. Their investment in the Dominican Republic might equal that of all other clubs combined. You'd think a prospect might course through the Dodgers' development program and settle in as a good major league player every once in a while. Yet among all the guys L.A. has signed since 1983, Mike Devereaux was the only everyday player in the major leagues last season. And except for Ramon Martinez, not many pitchers have stepped forward lately. One side benefit to signing Darryl Strawberry was that L.A. had to forfeit its first-round draft choice last June to the Mets. The Dodgers have suffered embarrassment enough for their top picks from 1987 to 1990. Dan Opperman, Kiki Jones and Ron Walden all are on the scrap heap with bad arms, and Bill Bene (262 BB in 201 IP) is working on replacing Steve Dalkowski as the most legendary wild man in history. Thank goodness for the Martinez family of Santo Domingo. Pedro should join Ramon in the Dodgers rotation this summer, and supposedly neither has as fine an arm as their little brother Jesus, a 17-year-old lefty. The Dodgers may bring Jesus to the States this spring.

HELP THIS SEASON: PEDRO MARTINEZ, RHP (AAA-AA-A) — Four years younger and 4 inches shorter than Ramon, he has the same whippet-type build and above-average repertoire. Pedro, 20, offsets his 90-mph fastball with a superb change-up, but needs better rotation on his curve. He blew through the system last year (18-8, 2.28

FARM REPORT

ERA, .201 OBA, 192 K's and 66 BB in 177 IP) and may not need much more time in Triple-A. **ERIC KARROS**, 1B (AAA) — He is a career .331 hitter in the minors and was a huge producer last year (.316, 33 2B, 22 HR, 101 RBIs). Karros, 24, needs to prove he has the bat speed to catch up with major league pitching, especially after going 7 for 81 in Venezuela the past winter before being sent home. **RUDY SEANEZ**, RHP (AAA-AA) — Acquired from Cleveland last December, he might be the hardest thrower in pro ball. Eastern League scouts said they clocked Seanez, 23, at 100 mph on the faster JUGS gun last year, and one scout said he got a 103 reading. If he throws strikes, long a problem (4.07 ERA, 7 saves, 92 K's and 52 BB in 56 IP last year), Seanez can help in the bullpen, eventually as a closer. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ**, C (AAA) — A backup for now and perhaps Mike Scioscia's heir apparent, he makes solid contact and has alley power (.345, 8 HR, 44 RBIs in 95 games last year). Hernandez, 24, is agile behind the plate and throws with a quick, accurate arm, stopping 41 percent of

the runners who tried to steal against him last year.

TOP PROSPECTS: RAUL MONDESI, OF (AAA-AA-A) — Since signing in 1988, he has grown from 5-10, 145 pounds to 6-1, 200, adding iron to his quick wrists but not losing any of his base-stealing speed. Scouts say Mondesi, 21, could be a 30/30 man, and his arm from center field will be among the best in the major leagues. Despite an interruption for knee surgery, he progressed well last season (.328, 8 HR, 39 RBIs, 17 SB). **JAMIE McANDREW**, RHP (AAA) — Son of former major league pitcher Jim McAndrew, he had a 28-6 record and 2.01 ERA in the minors until reaching the small-parks Pacific Coast League last season (12-10, 5.04 ERA, 91 K's and 76 BB in 155 IP). McAndrew, 24, relies on a sinker and slider, and is adept at mixing in a curve and change-up. Scouts say he's a solid No. 3 or 4 starter. **GREG HANSELL**, RHP (A) — Traded from the Red Sox to the Mets to the Dodgers in 1990, he began to emerge as a dominating starter last season (14-5, 2.87 ERA, 132 K's and 42 BB in 151 IP). Hansell, 21, has a solid fastball that is gaining veloc-

ity, gets strikeouts with his change-up and will have a third out pitch if his curve continues to develop.

WORTH WATCHING: Henry Rodriguez, 1B-OF (AAA); Pedro Astacio, RHP (AA-A); Billy Ashley, OF (A); Mike Piazza, C (A); Todd Hollandsworth, OF (A-Rookie); Rick Gorecki, RHP (Rookie)

GRADE: C

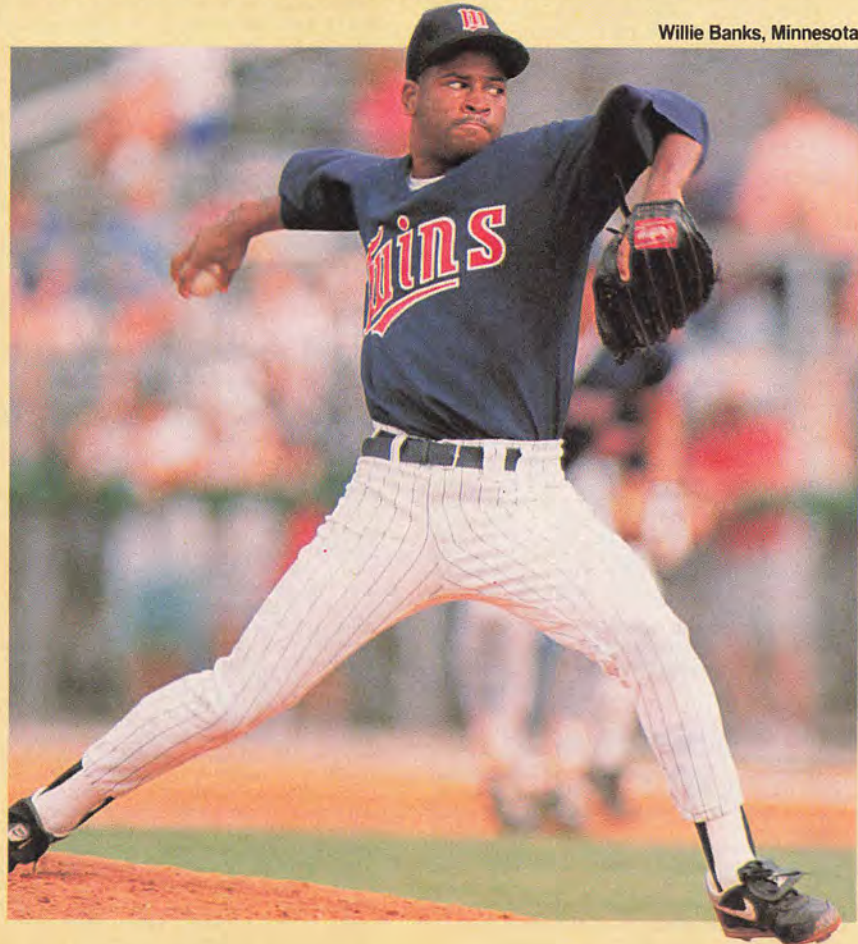
SAN DIEGO PADRES

AFFILIATES: Las Vegas (AAA); Wichita, Kan. (AA); Adelanto, Calif. (A); Charleston, S.C. (A); Waterloo, Iowa (A); Spokane, Wash. (short season); Scottsdale, Ariz. (short season)

The Padres entered spring training with four legitimate everyday players — Benito Santiago, Tony Gwynn, Tony Fernandez and Fred McGriff — and no help in sight coming from the farm. In recent years, they've virtually given away Shane Mack, Dave Hollins, Joey Cora, Warren Newson and

MAZ'S GOLD LIST

A LOOK AT THE TOP MAJOR LEAGUE PROSPECTS



Willie Banks, Minnesota

THEIR FUTURE IS NOW

The following prospects are likely to make their presence felt in the majors this season:

1. **ROGER SALKELD**, RHP, Seattle — Tall and rangy, he throws with easy effort and has the power repertoire to become a No. 1 starter. Salkeld has made only four starts in Triple-A, but is close enough that he can handle on-the-job training without wilting.
2. **KENNY LOFTON**, OF, Cleveland — Perhaps the fastest man in pro ball, he fits at the top of the batting order and in center field. Lofton has batted .318 and stolen 102 bases in the minors the past two seasons.
3. **LANCE DICKSON**, LHP, Chicago Cubs — Stalled by a foot injury in 1991, he is coming off a superb season in winter ball. Dickson's curve is a major league strikeout pitch.
4. **TODD HUNDLEY**, C, New York Mets — A gifted receiver and thrower, he has a Gold Glove future behind the plate. Hundley doesn't have an imposing bat, but could hit .250 with occasional power.
5. **DEREK BELL**, OF, Toronto — He was a .346 hitter in Triple-A last season, and has line-drive power and base-stealing speed. Bell fits in right field, though his problems stopping ground balls indicate he needs to hone his concentration.
6. **MARK WOHLERS**, RHP, Atlanta — The dominant closer in the minors last season, he throws "easy gas" in the mid-90s. Wohlers need only prove he will trust his slider.
7. **CAL ELDRED**, RHP, Milwaukee — He has the size, competitive nature and enough stuff to be a workhorse-type starter. Eldred doesn't throw 90 mph, but his cut fastball and curve are solid pitches.
8. **WILFREDO CORDERO**, SS, Montreal — He still relies too much on natural instincts, but makes plays when they most count. Cordero has 20-homer potential if he learns the strike zone. Only 20, he has played four seasons.
9. **HECTOR FAJARDO**, RHP, Texas — He pitched for six clubs and two organizations last season, yet never lost his focus, rising from Class A to the majors. Fajardo puts three good pitches in the strike zone and doesn't give in to hitters.
10. **EDDIE ZOSKY**, SS, Toronto — An intense player, he sometimes takes too many chances

Omar Oliveras, all of whom would figure prominently in San Diego's 1992 plans. Santiago and Ricky Bones are the only players left in San Diego from the great Puerto Rican contingent assembled in the early- and mid-1980s by Sandy Johnson (now with Texas) and Luis Rosa (now with the Cubs). Perhaps general manager Joe McIlvaine can get the Padres back into player development. But know this: About the only farm system that has been less productive than San Diego's recently is the Mets' program that McIlvaine was responsible for before he joined the Padres in October 1990.

HELP THIS SEASON: JEREMY HERNANDEZ, RHP (AAA) — He adapted quickly to a relief role last season (4-8, 4.74 ERA, 13 saves, 67 K's and 25 BB in 68 IP), able to use his hard slider without having to worry about developing an off-speed pitch. Hernandez, 25, throws strikes and isn't afraid to work inside. **DAVE STATON, 1B-3B (AAA)** — He has a righthanded power stroke that could be worth 25 to 30 homers annually, but still chases too many high

fastballs and breaking pitches (.267, 22 HR, 74 RBIs last year). Staton, 24, is best suited for DH and blocked by McGriff at first base. If he hits, the Padres could stand his stationary play at third (12 errors in 41 games in '91). **MATT MIESKE, OF (A)** — A 17th-round draft choice in 1990, he has no exceptional skills, but grades out as a solid player and has fine baseball instincts. Coming off a great season (.341, 36 2B, 15 HR, 119 RBIs, 39 SB) in which he had the best on-base percentage (.456) in the minors, Mieske, 24, may be an answer in left field.

TOP PROSPECTS: RAFAEL VALDEZ, RHP (AAA) — A shortstop until 1988, he was on a fast track to the majors until needing shoulder surgery last season (0-2, 5.94 ERA in 17 innings). Valdez, 24, is expected to be ready for spring training. When healthy, he threw a 90-mph fastball that had late hopping action. The Padres want him to scrap his slider and try a curve. **JOEY HAMILTON, RHP** — The eighth player drafted last June, he signed too late to join a club, quelling hopes that he might be ready this season. Hamil-

ton, 21, has a plus fastball and the best change-up in the system. He needs to rediscover the curve he showed two years ago at Georgia Southern. **RAY McDAVID, OF (A)** — A superior athlete who had concentrated on basketball before signing with the Padres in 1990, he has a long, willowy body, natural strength in his left-side swing and great speed. McDavid, 20, showed vast potential last season (.247, 10 HR, 45 RBIs, 60 SB, 106 BB) when he wasn't chasing bad pitches (119 K's). If his arm stretches out, he will be a terrific centerfielder. **ROBBIE BECKETT, LHP (A)** — He has a plus fastball and throws a devastating slider that would be the envy of most major league pitchers, but needs radar to find the strike zone (2-14, 8.23 ERA, 96 K's and 117 BB in 109 IP). If Beckett, 19, can smooth his violent mechanics and stay in shape, scouts say he's a made-to-order closer.

WORTH WATCHING: Jose Valentin, SS (AA); Doug Brocail, RHP (AA); Ray Holbert, SS (A); Mark Anthony, OF (A); Greg Anthony, RHP (Rookie); Manuel Cora, SS-3B (Rookie)

GRADE: C-



Derek Bell, Toronto

with an arm that ranks among the strongest at his position. Zosky can be productive at the bottom of the order if he learns to play the little man's offensive game.

11. LEE STEVENS, 1B, California — Rushed to the majors two years ago because of an injury to Wally Joyner, he is better prepared this time. Stevens has tightened his long swing and no longer is helpless against inside heat. He has more natural power than Joyner.

12. JIM THOME, 3B, Cleveland — A .326 hitter while bolting through the system the past two seasons, he's close enough for on-the-job training. Thome pounds line drives into the alleys, but as a third baseman won't conjure memories of Buddy Bell.

13. DENNY NEAGLE, LHP, Minnesota — After a 29-7 record and 2.52 ERA in the minors the past two seasons, he's ready for the Twins rotation. Neagle isn't overpowering, but throws hard enough to set up a circle change-up he learned by watching Frank Viola.

14. TINO MARTINEZ, 1B, Seattle — He hasn't shown much in late-season trials the past two years, but may need only a chance to play regularly. Martinez is a disciplined, line-drive

hitter, though appears to be vulnerable to inside hard stuff.

15. KIRK DRESSENDORFER, RHP, Oakland — Coming off shoulder-maintenance surgery, he can reclaim the rotation spot he held briefly early last season. Dressendorfer has four pitches, knows how to set up hitters and is a fierce competitor.

THEIR FUTURE IS NEAR

Given the opportunity, these prospects could have an impact on their clubs by midseason:

1. TODD VAN POPPEL, RHP, Oakland — Every scout's favorite, he endured hard times in Double-A last season without wilting. Van Poppel has a hopping 95-mph fastball and a knee-buckling curve, but needs better command. A dozen starts in Triple-A may be enough.

2. ARTHUR RHODES, LHP, Baltimore — For many scouts, he is the next Vida Blue, although Rhodes needs to affirm the durability of his electric left arm. When his low-90s fastball, curve and change-up are working, he's a 15-strikeouts-per-game pitcher. Like Van Poppel, he may be ready after a dozen Triple-A starts.

3. PEDRO MARTINEZ, RHP, Los Angeles — He has a live, loose arm and the same touch with a change-up as his big brother, Ramon. Pedro, 20, is 26-11 after two pro years and will be in Triple-A only until his breaking pitch becomes more consistent.

4. BRIAN WILLIAMS, RHP, Houston — A modern-day Bob Gibson, he can sink or run his 90-mph fastball, is a great fielder and probably could be a power-hitting rightfielder. Williams should be ready for the Astros rotation by June.

5. DONOVAN OSBORNE, LHP, St. Louis — He's developing like Joe Magrane did after college. Osborne has gained velocity on his fastball and is learning to lead with it instead of off-speed stuff. He has superb control, but works too much in the strike zone.

6. ROYCE CLAYTON, SS, San Francisco — A quick, powerful athlete, he has requisite skills at shortstop and superb instincts for the game. Clayton swings an ultra-quick bat and steals bases. Expect to see him alongside Matt Williams by June.

7. WILLIE BANKS, RHP, Minnesota — He has a live fastball and can lock any hitter's knees with his overhand curve. Banks has battled control problems for five years. The Twins are waiting patiently.

8. REGGIE SANDERS, OF, Cincinnati — While he has Eric Davis-type potential, it is starting to unsettle the Reds that Sanders seems as prone to injury as Davis. All he has to prove in Triple-A is his health.

9. DAVE NILSSON, C, Milwaukee — A .366 hitter last season, he has alley power but lacks a home run lift in his swing. Nilsson is an agile receiver and throws well. If not for left shoulder surgery, he could have moved B.J. Surhoff to an infield spot this spring.

10. GREG GOHR, RHP, Detroit — Needy as they might be, the Tigers are loath to rush Gohr before he develops a better change-up. His 90-mph fastball will be a welcome sight in a rotation of slobballs.

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COLLEGE BASEBALL Report '92

by Allan Simpson

Top 20

Pardon the expansion Florida Marlins if they are green with envy about the pitching staff the cross-town Miami Hurricanes have assembled. "Yeah, we'd like to have them. Who wouldn't?" says Marlins scouting director Gary Hughes.

The Hurricanes staff is rich in major league potential. Freshman Kenny Henderson declined a \$500,000 offer from Milwaukee, which selected him in the first round of last June's draft. Jose Prado (San Francisco, 1990) and Jeff Seale (New York Mets, 1988) were second-round draft picks out of high school, and Silvio Censale (Minnesota, 1990) was a fourth-round selection.

"We have tremendous pitching depth," says Miami coach Ron Fraser. "It makes you start to think: How good can we really be?"

Miami enters the season ranked No. 1 by *Bill Mazeroski's Baseball*.

Henderson, a 6-7 righthander, joins Chicago White Sox pitcher Alex Fernandez as first-round picks Milwaukee has lost in the past four years to Miami's high-powered program. Fernandez was 15-2 as a 1988 freshman, his only season at Miami.

"Henderson definitely will be a starter for us," Fraser says, "but he's younger and not as mature as Fernandez was at the same point. We'll have to spot him a little more than we did Alex."

On the receiving end of the pitching talent is Charles Johnson, a former first-round pick (Montreal, 1989) and expected to be among the top 10 players drafted this June.

Following is a look at the Top 20 teams. The rankings following the 1991 records are from *Baseball America's* final poll last season.

1. MIAMI THE HURRICANES

Coach: Ron Fraser (1,216-428, 29 years)

1991: 46-17 (16th)

CWS last 10 years: 1982-84-85-86-88-89

The Hurricanes will rely heavily on C Charles Johnson (.339-15-53) and a quartet of pitchers as they seek their first College World Series title since 1985. Of the four pitchers, only RHP Jose Prado (9-3, 3.66) made an impact last season. LHP Silvio Censale (1-1, 2.72) will get regular work this spring, along with Kenny Henderson, who wanted \$1 million to sign with Milwaukee. Senior LHP Jeff Alkire (10-2, 2.65), the team's biggest winner in 1991, will be the stabilizer. The staff is so talented that RHP Jeff Seale, a transfer from San Jacinto (Texas) junior college, will be rele-

gated to mop-up work. Johnson's supporting cast on offense includes 1B Alex Miranda (.318-1-24), SS Chris Anderson (.301-3-42) and OFs Frank Mora (.289-1-13), Gino DiMare (.353-1-28) and Johnathan Smith (.296-11-34). Smith emerged as a prospect last summer in the Cape Cod League and was the fastest runner in timed sprints at the U.S. Olympic baseball team trials last fall. Fraser will coach the 1992 U.S. team.

2. FLORIDA THE GATORS

Coach: Joe Arnold (317-176, eight years)

1991: 51-21 (third)

CWS last 10 years: 1988-91

The Gators got an unexpected bonus when RHP John Burke (9-5, 2.25), the sixth player drafted last June, was unable to come to terms with Houston. Also returning are sophomores Marc Valdes (13-4, 2.63) and Ron Scott (10-2, 4.13), giving Florida the same rotation as last year's College World Series entry. Closer John Pricher (5-4, 3.53, 12 saves) also is back. Seven regulars return, led by 1B Brent Killen (.306-9-53), MVP of the Cape Cod League last summer, and SS Kevin Polcovich (.345-0-30).

3. WICHITA STATE THE SHOCKERS

Coach: Gene Stephenson (792-248, 14 years)

1991: 66-13 (second)

CWS last 10 years: 1982-88-89-91

The Shockers, runners-up in the College World Series last year, are so deep in pitching they hardly will miss RHP Tyler Green, Philadelphia's first-round draft pick last June. RHP Kenzie Steenstra (17-0, 2.17) was the top winner in the NCAA in '91, but scouts say sophomores Darren Dreifort (9-2, 2.41) and Jamie Bluma (3-2, 1.60) are better pro prospects. C Doug Mirabelli (.351-13-85) and SS Chris Wimmer (.401-4-68, 54 SB) are the offensive leaders. Also returning are 1B Jason White (.337-13-65), 3B-DH Scot McCloughan (.323-5-46) and OF Todd Dreifort (.337-8-56).

4. PEPPERDINE THE WAVES

Coach: Andy Lopez (119-59, three years)

1991: 41-17 (17th)

CWS last 10 years: None

Pepperdine returns its top three starters and eight position players, in addition to the top relief tandem in the NCAA. Steve Montgomery (9-1, 1.49, 4 saves) will be the closer in key situations, although partner Derek Wallace (4-0, 2.58) has a better arm and is almost certain to be a first-round pick in June. Starters Pat Ahearne (11-5, 3.42), Jerry Aschoff (6-5, 3.44) and Steve Duda (11-2, 3.07) are proven commodities. Pepperdine's right-side infield, 1B Dan Melendez (.354-6-60) and 2B Steve

Rodriguez (.419-7-49), ranks among the best in the nation. C Scott Vollmer (.313-2-29), SS Eric Ekdahl (.325-1-24) and CF Chris Sheff (.324-4-46) also return.

5. LONG BEACH STATE THE 49ERS

Coach: Dave Snow (131-59, three years)

1991: 45-22 (eighth)

CWS last 10 years: 1989-91

Strong pitching is a recurring theme among the nation's top teams, but Long Beach State is the exception. The draft ravaged last year's staff, claiming Steve Whitaker and Dennis Gray in the first two rounds, All-American Steve Trachsel and Andy Croghan, the school's leader in career victories. Todd Taylor (8-2, 2.95) is the 49ers' only proven pitcher. Scoring, though, shouldn't be a problem. Returning from a team that batted .342 and averaged almost nine runs are 1B Alan Burke (.328-4-40), 2B Lamarr Rogers (.365-1-33), 3B Jason Giambi (.407-3-54), OFs Eddie Christian (.394-2-41) and Mike Case (.385-5-31) and DH Todd Priddy (.361-5-44). Add All-america SS Chris Gomez (.284-6-42), a transfer from Loyola Marymount, and the 49ers have the most explosive offense in the college game.

6. OKLAHOMA STATE THE COWBOYS

Coach: Gary Ward (179-223, 14 years)

1991: 47-20 (12th)

CWS last 10 years: 1982-83-84-85-86-87-90

The Cowboys are two-deep at almost every position — unusual in a sport with a 13-scholarship limit. 3B Lou Lucca (.368-14-80) is assured of being a regular, and middle infielder Fred Ocasio (.295-1-26) and OFs Manny Gagliano (.255-16-62) and Steve Dailey (.301-9-47) are certain to play a lot. The Cowboys have enough talent that at least five players drafted over the past two years likely will sit more than they play. The top returning pitchers are Scott Watkins (12-2, 4.33), Brad Gore (7-4, 5.42) and Billy Kanwisher (6-6, 5.30), and Ritchie Moody is ready to resume an active role after pitching sparingly in '91 because of an arm injury suffered in an auto accident. Moody (.308-9-54) was used mostly as a DH while recuperating.

7. ARIZONA THE WILDCATS

Coach: Jerry Kindall (733-424, 19 years)

1991: 27-32 (Not ranked)

CWS last 10 years: 1985-86

It's rare when the top-rated team in the Pac-10 South, traditionally the nation's strongest conference, isn't ranked among the nation's five best. Yet Arizona just as easily could finish last in the Six-Pac if LHP Tim Schweitzer (4-4, 5.32) and RHP Mike Schiefelbein (1-5,

10.13) falter as sophomores. Both were 1990 second-round draft picks, and Schweitzer struck out 16 against UCLA in '91 before developing a sore arm. The Wildcats have a solid lineup, including C Willie Morales (.371-2-31), 1B Billy Owens (.346-12-63), OFs Ron Oelschlager (.338-1-27) and John Tejcek (.318-3-34) and DH Robbie Moen (.402-7-60). 2B Chris Gump (Mesa, Ariz., CC) and SS Jason Bates (Cypress, Calif., JC), both all-stars in the summer Alaska League, are the new double-play combination.

8. FLORIDA STATE THE SEMINOLES

Coach: Mike Martin (666-218, 12 years)
1991: 57-14 (fifth)
CWS last 10 years: 1986-87-89-91

The Seminoles were the top-seeded team at last year's College World Series, but lost their first two games. C Pedro Grifol (.344-16-80) and 1B Eduardo Perez (.370-11-58), both All-Americans, and closer Ricky Kimball (4-1, 2.23) are gone, but virtually everyone else is back. OF-LHP Chris Roberts (.321-14-77; 7-2, 3.52) is almost certain to be a first-round draft pick in June. He has the best arm on the staff, but will have a less significant role on the mound, deferring to Roger Bailey (11-3, 3.78), Tim Davis (9-2, 2.84) and Bryan Harris (7-2, 2.93). In addition to Roberts, the offense will come from 3B Nandy Serrano (.336-8-46), OF Ty Mueller (.280-11-51) and DH Kenny Felder (.254-11-56), who has potential as a premier power hitter if he decides to drop football and concentrate on baseball.

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE THE BULLDOGS

Coach: Ron Polk (652-286, 16 years)
1991: 42-21 (Not ranked)
CWS last 10 years: 1985-90

The Bulldogs have virtually everyone returning from last year's third-place team in the Southeastern Conference. The top everyday players are 2B Charlie Anderson (.275-7-49), 3B Chuck Daniel (.264-0-26) and OFs Steve Hegan (.310-7-48) and Rex Buckner (.291-5-39). Also back are pitchers B.J. Wallace (10-5, 3.78), Jon Harden (6-3, 2.96) and sophomore closer Jay Powell (4-2, 1.28, 10 saves). RHP Carlton Loewer is a highly regarded freshman.

10. STANFORD THE CARDINAL

Coach: Mark Marquess (625-314, 15 years)
1991: 39-23 (15th)
CWS last 10 years: 1982-83-85-87-88-90

Pitching will have to carry Stanford, and the Cardinal promises to have a strong staff. Rick Helling, a rare junior-college transfer (Triton, Ill.), joins Aaron Dorlarque (9-2, 3.77), healthy Brian Sackinsky (1-1, 5.73 but a 10-game winner in 1990) and highly regarded sophomores Willie Adams (7-3, 4.14) and Andrew Lorraine (0-0, 4.61). Helling played for Team USA at the Pan American Games last summer, and Sackinsky, Adams and Lorraine were invited to the Olympic trials in November. The staff is so deep that juniors Jamie Sepeda and Tim Moore, both top prospects out of high school, have no defined roles. The offense lost 1B David McCarty (.420-24-66), *Baseball America's* 1991 college player of the year, and three other regulars, shifting a heavy burden to CF Jeff Hammonds (.327-14-57), who might be the first player selected in the June draft.

11. NOTRE DAME THE FIGHTING IRISH

Coach: Pat Murphy (178-69, four years)
1991: 45-16 (22nd)
CWS last 10 years: None

The Irish, 91-28 over the past two seasons but left out of the NCAA tournament each time, have the pitching to mount another bid. Returning are Pat Leahy (8-3, 4.76), Chris Michalak (9-1, 2.47), Alan Walania (11-5, 3.69), Tom Price (7-2, 2.55) and David Sinnes (NCAA ERA leader in 1990 as a freshman). The offense includes C Cory Mee (.355-0-34), 1B Joe Binkiewicz (.379-15-48), SS Craig Counsell (.317-2-37) and OF Eric Danapilis (.374-4-43). Paul Failla and Steve Verducco, both shortstops in high school, are prized recruits.



John Burke, Florida

12. SOUTH CAROLINA THE GAMECOCKS

Coach: June Raines (590-262, 15 years)
1991: 40-22 (Not ranked)
CWS last 10 years: 1982-85

With every position player and the top four pitchers returning, the Gamecocks figure to be a strong contender in their first Southeastern Conference season. C Dave Willman (.348-6-41), 1B Jeff Parnell (.335-15-63), 3B Burke Cromer (.310-5-42) and OFs Jerry Shepherd (.383-14-60) and Mac White (.332-3-36) are the core of a strong offense. The top pitcher is Jared Baker (11-4, 3.15), a possible first-round draft choice in June.

13. TEXAS THE LONGHORNS

Coach: Cliff Gustafson (1,202-276, 24 years)
1991: 48-18 (10th)
CWS last 10 years: 1982-83-84-85-87-89

DH-RHP Brooks Kieschnick (.358-14-67; 7-1, 2.58) was *Baseball America's* 1991

freshman of the year. He figures prominently on the mound, along with Jay Vaught (5-0, 2.49) and Scott Harrison (10-1, 3.19). CF Calvin Murray (.279, 43 SB) is a leadoff hitter with first-round credentials for the June draft. 3B Clay King (.333-6-53) is the only other proven position player.

14. HAWAII THE RAINBOWS

Coach: Les Murakami (788-349, 21 years)
1991: 51-18 (14th)
CWS last 10 years: None

Bill Blanchette (14-2, 2.68) pitched the Rainbows to within one victory of the 1991 College World Series, yet could relinquish the No. 1 spot in the rotation. Levon Largusa (4-5, 5.02), the top prospect on the team, is healthy after struggling through last season with a hand injury. Also back are Scott Karl (10-4, 4.36) and Scott Tucker (14 saves as a freshman). Seven .300 hitters return, including Blanchette (.315-3-39), a first baseman when he's not pitching, 3B Scott Craven (.328-4-32) and OF Harold Cabbab (.369-2-30).

15. LOUISIANA STATE THE TIGERS

Coach: Skip Bertman (380-149, eight years)
1991: 55-18 (first)
CWS last 10 years: 1986-87-89-90-91

After four unsuccessful trips to the College World Series since 1986, the Tigers won the national title in 1991. Repeating will be difficult, considering that six regulars and most of the key pitchers are gone. The only experienced players are SS Andy Sheets (.273-3-42) and OFs Chris Moock (.284-7-42) and Armando Rios (.301-4-20). Moock is shifting from third base. Junior-college transfers are being counted on for immediate production. Except for Mike Sirotko (11-0, 2.80) and Ricky Greene (7-2, 3.17, NCAA-high 14 saves), the pitching is untested.

16. CAL STATE FULLERTON THE TITANS

Coach: Augie Garrido (701-314, 16 years)
1991: 34-22 (Not ranked)
CWS last 10 years: 1984-88

Garrido was the coach when Fullerton won national titles in 1979 and 1984. He left for Illinois in 1988, but returned last season and took over a club that finished as co-champion of the Big West. More significantly, Garrido re-established his reputation as a top recruiter in talent-rich southern California. OF Dante Powell, a first-round pick of the Toronto Blue Jays, was among six high school players drafted last June who chose to join Garrido's program. The new crop will be integrated with veterans such as C Jason Moler (.318-5-31), 2B Steve Sisco (.350-3-40), 3B Phil Nevin (.335-3-46) and Ps Dan Naulty (8-3, 3.38) and James Popoff (7-3, 4.81).

17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THE TROJANS

Coach: Mike Gillespie (195-118, five years)
1991: 46-17 (seventh)
CWS last 10 years: None

DH Casey Burrill (.333-4-55) and OF Billy Morris (.274-2-22), who is shifting from shortstop, are the lone regulars returning from a team that was ranked No. 1 much of 1991 but didn't make it to the College World Series for the 13th straight year. The pitching staff, though, is formidable. Back are Pac-10 South

pitcher of the year Jackie Nickell (9-4, 3.92), Olympic team hopefuls Mike Collett (5-4, 4.00) and Kent Donnelly (7-1, 4.88), and closer Dan Hubbs (7-2, 3.60 ERA). The highly regarded freshman class includes Bob Boone's son, Aaron, who is expected to be the second baseman.

18. CLEMSON THE TIGERS

Coach: Bill Wilhelm (1,066-502, 34 years)
1991: 60-10 (fourth)
CWS last 10 years: 1991

Seeded second at Omaha last year, the Tigers were eliminated in two games, abruptly ending the finest of Wilhelm's 34 seasons at Clemson. The pitching staff has lost 11-game winner Mike Kimbrell, but Jason Angel (14-2, 2.33) and everyone else is back. The Tigers need to replace five big bats from a team that ranked second in the NCAA in runs and home runs.

The returnees include C Mike Lockhart (.357-4-44), 3B Jeff Miller (.297-9-48) and OFs Billy McMillon (.391-10-48) and Kevin Northrup (.350-5-48). SS Ted Corbin, a transfer from Auburn, is one of the best middle infielders in the nation.

19. ARIZONA STATE THE SUN DEVILS

Coach: Jim Brock (977-378, 20 years)
1991: 35-27 (Not ranked)
CWS last 10 years: 1983-84-87-88

Top-ranked in preseason polls last year, the Sun Devils disintegrated under the strain of horrid pitching. They have lost OF Mike Kelly (.373-15-56), the second player drafted last June, but recruited well enough that three freshmen — C-DH Todd Cady, 3B Antone Williamson and OF Jacob Cruz — may be able to help immediately. Returning veterans include SS Kurt Ehmann (.331-3-39) and

OFs Todd Stevenson (.289-10-50) and Scott Samuels (.299-9-39). P-1B Doug Newstrom won 10 games as a freshman, but may be a better hitter (.250-1-16) than pitcher. The staff was revamped with junior-college transfers.

20. INDIANA STATE THE SYCAMORES

Coach: Bob Warn (625-335, 16 years)
1991: 42-23 (Not ranked)
CWS last 10 years: 1986

The Sycamores have the talent to compete with Missouri Valley Conference foe Wichita State. LHP Casey Whitten (8-2, 4.01) could be one of the nation's top strikeout pitchers, after fanning 72 in 67 innings as a freshman. The staff also includes Randy Keaffaber (8-1, 2.80). The top hitters are C Stoney Burke (.294-1-23), 2B Dave Doster (.326-5-44), SS Dan Frye (.311-10-50) and OF Johnny LaMar (.321-9-49).

Prospectus

1. JEFF HAMMONDS, of Stanford

He is an overwhelming favorite to be the first college player drafted in June. Scouts have mixed opinions about whether Hammonds is better suited to be a leadoff or No. 3 hitter. He has the speed to hit first and enough power to bat lower in the lineup. Batting third last season, the 6-0, 180-pound Plainfield, N.J., native hit .327 and had 14 homers and 21 stolen bases. Scouts have described Hammonds as a Rickey Henderson-type, but he doesn't have Henderson's raw speed. He has the range to play center field and an average arm for the position.

2. CHARLES JOHNSON, c Miami, Fla.

The 10th player drafted in 1989, he appears to have made a wise decision to decline a \$197,500 bonus offer from Montreal for a chance at a substantially greater payoff this June. The 6-3, 210-pound Johnson, a native of Fort Pierce, Fla., has shown steady improvement, especially with his bat, in two years at Miami. He batted .356 with 15 home runs last season. Johnson has excellent power, runs average for a catcher, throws well and is an above-average receiver. During international competition the past two summers, Johnson has grown into a take-charge guy behind the plate. He's a cinch to be the catcher on the U.S. Olympic team.

3. MICHAEL MOORE, of UCLA

He could follow Todd Van Poppel in 1990 and Brien Taylor in 1991 as the marquee name in this year's draft. From a wealthy Beverly Hills family and a nephew of former NFL wide receiver Ahmad Rashad, Moore is a terrific athlete whose sports emphasis at UCLA has been as a receiver on the football team. He declined a six-figure offer from Toronto in 1989, and some think it may take Taylor-type money (\$1.55 million) to change his mind this time. The 6-4, 196-pound Moore — he's cut



from the same mold as Mike Kelly, the second player drafted last June — has five-tool potential, but hasn't played enough to develop his skills. He hit .328 with 8 homers and 22 RBIs at UCLA last spring, then was selected the top prospect in the Cape Cod League, despite not finishing the season because of football obligations.

4. JOHN BURKE, rhp Florida

He was the sixth player drafted last June, but returned to school rather than accept a \$400,000 bonus offer from Houston. The 6-4, 200-pound Burke is a junior, so he still has bargaining leverage, and his stock could soar if he makes it through an injury-free season. He missed significant parts of his first two years at Florida because of a sore arm, then suffered a broken ankle last fall in an off-field accident. Burke, though, continues to enamor scouts with his size, 90-mph fastball, excellent breaking pitch and tenacity on the mound.

5. PAUL SHUEY, rhp North Carolina

He missed much of last season because of an leg injury, but scouts have seen enough of Shuey's overpowering arm to project him as closer material. Undrafted in 1989 out of a Raleigh, N.C., high school, Shuey began to emerge as a freshman reliever at North Carolina. Upon returning from his injury last year, he struck out 55 in 37 innings. Shuey continued to progress last summer, posting a club-leading five saves for Team USA, which culminated its schedule at the Pan American Games.

6. CALVIN MURRAY, of Texas

He was a first-round draft choice of the Cleveland Indians in 1989, but obliged his mother by attending college. Three years later, scouts still are waiting for the 5-11, 185-pound Murray to tap his potential. He has base-stealing speed, is a true centerfielder and shows occasional power. Murray has been an ordinary hitter at Texas, batting .298 and .279, but has stolen 92 bases. He needs to make more consistent contact to take advantage of his

Charles Johnson, Miami

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speed, although when judging a Texas prospect, scouts take into consideration that the Longhorns coaching staff teaches batters not to swing until they have two strikes. Freed of those constraints when playing summer ball in Alaska, Murray has shown an aggressive approach at the plate.

7. MICHAEL TUCKER, ss Longwood (Va.)

He hit .450 with 15 homers last season, but it was for an NCAA Division II school in Farmville, Va. Tucker's rise in prominence came last November at the U.S. Olympic trials. He showed natural hitting ability, power and running speed. While scouts are uncertain what Tucker's position will be, they say he has the athletic ability and arm strength to become a competent defender. He lacks instincts at shortstop, but could fit into the pro game at second base or in the outfield.

8. CHRIS ROBERTS, lhp-of Florida State

Opinion is split on whether Roberts will reach the major leagues as a pitcher or outfielder. While his greater accomplishments have been on offense, scouts say he may have more potential as a pitcher. At 6-0, 180 pounds, he has less than optimum size for a pitcher, but being lefthanded and highly competitive on

the mound endears Roberts to scouts. Last spring, he was 7-2 with a 3.52 ERA, and batted .321 with 14 homers and 77 RBIs. Roberts played exclusively as an outfielder for Team USA last summer, batting .331 with a club-high 11 homers. Lack of range limits him to a corner position.

9. DEREK WALLACE, rhp Pepperdine

A setup reliever at Pepperdine the past two years, he began to emerge as a top prospect last summer in the Cape Cod League and continued to impress scouts in fall practice. Wallace was 4-0 with a 2.58 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 35 innings last spring. He will be a starter this year, with scouts anxious to see how his arm bears up under a heavier work load and how he responds in a more significant role. Wallace throws hard and has shown good command of the strike zone.

10. DOUG MIRABELLI, c Wichita State

Tyler Houston was the second player drafted in 1989, and his successor behind the plate at Valley High School in Las Vegas was Mirabelli. After two years of college, Mirabelli also has developed into first-round material. He's a strong, durable receiver, throws well and takes charge of a game. Mirabelli shows some power potential (.351-13-85 in 1991).

11. CHAD MCCONNELL, of Creighton

His stock rose last summer in the Cape Cod League, when the lefthanded-hitting McConnell showed quick hands and wrists while swinging a wooden bat. He also runs well. McConnell hit .344 and had 11 home runs last season, helping Creighton gain its first appearance in the College World Series.

12. CHRIS GOMEZ, ss Long Beach State

The best of this year's middle-infield prospects from the college ranks, he doesn't have any spectacular tools but isn't lacking in any phase of the game. If his consistency improves, Gomez is a legitimate shortstop. He is a transfer from Loyola Marymount (.284 last year, .373 as a freshman) and has played the past two summers with Team USA. At Long Beach, Gomez will play next to Jason Giambi, the top-rated third baseman in the college crop.

OTHERS TO WATCH: Jason Giambi, 3b, Long Beach State; Doug Hecker, rhp-1b, Tennessee; Scott Klingenberg, rhp, Ohio State; Dan Melendez, 1b, Pepperdine; Phil Nevin, 3b, Cal State Fullerton

TOP HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTS

1. JOHNNY DAMON, of, Dr. Phillips HS, Orlando, Fla. — Dr. Phillips games were heavily scouted last year because of pitcher Brian Barber, who became a first-round draft choice of the St. Louis Cardinals. Had Damon been eligible, he would have been drafted higher than Barber. The 6-1, 185-pound Damon (.371, 5 HR, 19 RBIs last season) has power potential, above-average running speed and natural instincts in center field. He has average arm strength. Damon reminds scouts of Shawn Green, who received a \$700,000 signing bonus from Toronto last September to forego a scholarship to Stanford. Damon has committed to Florida.

2. RYAN LUZINSKI, c, Holy Cross HS, Delran, N.J. — He is the son of former major league outfielder Greg Luzinski, who is the coach at Holy Cross High. Scouts began taking notice of Ryan in ninth grade and say he already would have been a first-round draft choice had he been eligible. At 6-1, 220 pounds, Ryan mirrors the size and strength of his father, who was a top power hitter during his 15-year major league career. Scouts say Ryan will have to shorten his swing as he advances. He is a good receiver, blocks balls well and has a strong arm. Luzinski has committed to Miami, but is expected to sign a pro contract.

3. CHRIS SMITH, ss, Vallejo (Calif.) HS — The only question scouts have about Smith is which position he will play. Mainly a shortstop in high school, he played center field last summer for Team USA at the world junior championships. Smith has the athletic skills for either position and is an above-average runner. Scouts aren't

concerned about Smith's size (5-10, 175 pounds), saying he has a strong build and quick bat.

4. DAVID SPYKSTRA, rhp, Cherry Creek HS, Englewood, Colo. — John Burke of Florida, the top-rated college pitcher, left Cherry Creek High three years ago. At that stage, Burke wasn't as big and didn't throw as hard as Spykstra, but had a better breaking pitch, says Cherry Creek coach Marc Johnson. The 6-2, 200-pound Spykstra first came to the attention of scouts as a sophomore, when his fastball was clocked at 89 mph on the slower radar gun. He suffered strained ligaments in his elbow last spring and pitched only six innings, but had regained his health and velocity by the end of the summer. Though unable to pitch competitively last spring, Spykstra began developing a slider. Additionally, he became an All-State first baseman. He has committed to Florida.

5. DEREK JETER, ss, Central HS, Kalamazoo, Mich. — At 6-3, 170 pounds, he shows the quickness, range and arm strength to develop into a quality major league shortstop. Scouts, though, wonder if Jeter might become too big for shortstop once he matures physically. He had impressive statistics last season (.557, 7 HR, 31 RBIs in 70 AB) for someone lacking in upper-body strength. An honors student, Jeter has committed to Michigan and may be an expensive proposition for the club that drafts him.

6. TREY BEAMON, of, W.T. White HS, Dallas — The 6-2, 185-pound Beamon has a quick, strong bat, above-average arm and fine running speed. He's not as fast as Calvin Murray, a first-round draft choice

from the same school in 1989 and expected to be a first-rounder again in June out of the University of Texas, but has a stronger bat than Murray. Beamon hit .528 with five homers last spring. Scouts say he should mature into a power hitter as he learns to use his line-drive swing.

7. CHAD ALEXANDER, of, Lufkin (Texas) HS — His quick hands and aggressive approach at the plate indicate that Alexander will be a fine hitter and generate power. In 68 at-bats last spring, he hit .397 with 5 homers and 20 RBIs. Alexander runs well (6.6 seconds for 60 yards), is a natural centerfielder and has good baseball instincts. His arm strength is graded average. Alexander has committed to Texas A&M.

8. A.J. HINCH, c, Midwest City (Okla.) HS — He was the leading hitter (.440) for Team USA at the world junior championships last season, though some scouts wonder if Hinch has the bat speed to be considered first-round material. He has a 4.0 grade-point average and has committed to Stanford, which could discourage some clubs from drafting him. The 6-1, 190-pound Hinch is quick behind the plate, has a great arm and shows a natural instinct for calling a game. He runs well enough that he was the starting quarterback on the football team.

OTHERS TO WATCH: Jorge Aranzamendi, ss, University Gardens HS, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; Ben Jones, of, Alexandria (La.) HS; Tom Knauss, 3b, Hersey HS, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Chad Roper, rhp, Belton-Honea Path HS, Belton, S.C.; Dan Serafini, lhp, Serra HS, San Mateo, Calif.

STAR WARS

Old pros Molitor, Gwynn excel against best pitchers; Sanderson, Harnisch handcuff top hitters

Major league scouts discussing outstanding hitters often mention Paul Molitor and Tony Gwynn. They praise Molitor's gap power and bat speed, Gwynn's discipline and bat control. Both were at their best in 1991.

As the accompanying charts show, in matchups between each league's best hitters (top 10 in batting average, home runs and RBIs) and best pitchers (top 10 in ERA and victories), Molitor and Gwynn hit for the highest averages. Conversely, pitchers Scott Sanderson and Pete Harnisch were the most difficult to hit when matched against the elite batters.

Molitor, Milwaukee's "Ignitor," batted .358 and slugged .557 against the American League's best. The righthanded-hitting Molitor was especially effective against Minnesota righthander Kevin Tapani, going 8 for 16 with five extra-base hits.

Gwynn, San Diego's four-time batting champion, hit .385 against the National League's best, striking out just four times in 130 at-bats. A lefthanded hitter, he was 8 for 12 against Atlanta lefty Charlie Leibrandt.

The Yankees' Sanderson, a finesse pitcher with a big, slow curveball, limited the AL's best to a .196 batting average and .233 on-base percentage. Regarded as a fly-ball pitcher, he yielded only three home runs in 138 at-bats. Sluggers Albert Belle, Jose Canseco, Frank Thomas, Jack Clark and Cecil Fielder were a combined 0 for 34 against Sanderson.

Houston's Harnisch, making his first trip through the National League after being traded from Baltimore, had an edge on NL hitters unfamiliar with his power repertoire. Ivan Calderon and Paul O'Neill were the only players in the sample to homer off Harnisch.

Detroit's Fielder had the most home runs, RBIs and strikeouts in the AL sample, and the lowest on-base percentage. In 38 at-bats against Chuck Finley, Mark Langston, Jack McDowell, Jack Morris, Nolan Ryan, Kevin Tapani and Bill Wegman, Fielder had 10 hits — all home runs!

San Francisco teammates Will Clark and Matt Williams hit .400 (26 for 65) against Dodgers righthanders Tim Lincecum and Ramon Martinez. Williams homered three times off Martinez in 19 at-bats, and three times off Pittsburgh's John Smiley in 10 at-bats.

Boston's Roger Clemens yielded one home run — to Joe Carter — in 144 at-bats.

California's Mark Langston recorded at least one strikeout against every batter with at least five at-bats against him.

Baltimore's Cal Ripken had at least one hit against every pitcher in the AL sample.

HITTERS VS. PITCHERS

How the top hitters fared against the top pitchers.

Source: Howie Sportsdata International Project Scoresheet

American League

HITTER	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	RBI	OBP	SLG	BA
Paul Molitor	106	38	6	2	5	6	15	11	.398	.557	.358
Cal Ripken	126	44	9	0	4	8	10	15	.385	.516	.349
Julio Franco	86	30	3	0	0	11	15	9	.423	.384	.349
Wade Boggs	99	34	11	0	0	4	5	4	.365	.455	.343
Ken Griffey Jr.	122	41	12	0	2	13	17	21	.391	.484	.336
Willie Randolph	65	21	2	0	0	7	5	5	.389	.354	.323
Robin Ventura	98	29	6	1	5	8	12	18	.358	.510	.296
Rafael Palmeiro	102	30	10	1	5	8	15	16	.339	.539	.294
Danny Tartabull	84	24	6	0	4	11	22	16	.365	.500	.286
Chili Davis	96	26	5	0	7	13	26	19	.358	.542	.271
Albert Belle	90	24	7	0	4	4	21	18	.306	.478	.267
Ruben Sierra	103	27	5	0	4	8	15	16	.313	.427	.262
Joe Carter	123	32	8	0	6	10	17	15	.328	.472	.260
Kirby Puckett	110	27	6	0	1	2	13	12	.259	.327	.245
Juan Gonzalez	94	23	5	0	4	3	25	12	.276	.426	.245
Jose Canseco	94	22	3	1	6	8	29	14	.305	.457	.234
Mickey Tettleton	85	19	2	1	2	18	18	5	.365	.318	.224
Frank Thomas	95	21	2	0	1	21	24	7	.368	.274	.221
Cecil Fielder	110	23	3	0	10	5	33	26	.256	.509	.209
Dave Winfield	79	16	1	1	1	6	18	6	.259	.253	.203
Jack Clark	84	14	5	0	2	14	24	10	.283	.298	.167

National League

HITTER	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	RBI	OBP	SLG	BA
Tony Gwynn	130	50	6	3	1	5	4	9	.404	.454	.385
Terry Pendleton	120	42	10	1	3	10	14	18	.394	.508	.350
Ivan Calderon	109	38	6	0	4	11	14	17	.410	.514	.349
Fred McGriff	123	42	4	0	6	19	25	28	.418	.520	.341
Willie McGee	146	48	5	2	1	10	18	9	.376	.384	.329
Chris Sabo	134	43	9	1	7	13	22	32	.385	.545	.321
Will Clark	148	47	7	2	8	7	27	22	.353	.527	.318
Barry Larkin	108	34	6	2	3	12	10	13	.390	.454	.315
Bobby Bonilla	92	29	6	1	4	13	10	16	.400	.511	.315
Kevin Mitchell	94	29	6	0	8	8	14	22	.371	.628	.309
Matt Williams	153	46	7	2	10	3	35	24	.327	.542	.301
Hal Morris	100	30	8	0	1	7	11	11	.336	.410	.300
Ryne Sandberg	152	45	10	1	7	10	19	25	.340	.500	.296
Andre Dawson	137	36	5	1	8	2	23	26	.273	.474	.263
Barry Bonds	82	19	1	0	6	14	8	16	.340	.463	.232
Howard Johnson	153	35	10	1	9	12	37	22	.281	.471	.229
Felix Jose	140	32	6	0	0	5	27	8	.255	.271	.229
Ron Gant	126	28	8	1	5	13	21	13	.305	.405	.222
Darryl Strawberry	92	19	2	1	2	7	22	8	.275	.293	.207
Paul O'Neill	115	20	4	0	5	12	31	11	.252	.339	.174

1991 totals vs. each league's top 10 in victories and ERA

American League

PITCHER	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	RBI	OBP	SLG	BA
Scott Sanderson	138	27	7	0	3	7	20	12	.233	.312	.196
Jack McDowell	134	28	6	0	5	11	33	20	.267	.366	.209
Nolan Ryan	76	16	6	0	3	9	27	13	.326	.408	.211
Mike Moore	135	31	6	0	3	18	29	12	.320	.341	.230
Bill Wegman	100	25	3	0	5	7	13	13	.299	.430	.250
Jack Morris	146	38	4	2	4	9	30	19	.304	.370	.260
Mark Langston	147	39	4	1	9	15	35	22	.335	.476	.265
Scott Erickson	120	32	6	0	2	9	16	11	.315	.367	.267
Tom Candiotti	138	37	8	0	4	16	30	17	.335	.413	.268
Jimmy Key	129	35	7	0	3	14	18	15	.345	.395	.271
Bret Saberhagen	122	34	7	0	2	7	14	14	.333	.385	.279
Roger Clemens	144	43	10	1	1	9	33	21	.338	.389	.299
Chuck Finley	132	43	9	0	8	26	23	27	.447	.576	.326
Jim Abbott	138	48	12	0	6	18	20	17	.420	.565	.348
Bill Gulletson	123	43	9	2	6	6	19	19	.385	.569	.350
Kevin Tapani	129	46	13	1	9	7	19	23	.388	.667	.357

National League

PITCHER	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	RBI	OBP	SLG	BA
Pete Harnisch	162	30	5	2	2	14	23	15	.246	.253	.185
Terry Mulholland	175	44	9	2	7	10	31	23	.294	.423	.251
Tim Lincecum	159	40	8	1	5	10	32	19	.294	.396	.252
Bruce Hurst	125	32	7	0	6	10	23	16	.316	.456	.256
Dennis Martinez	135	35	3	4	5	10	12	18	.318	.393	.259
Doug Drabek	132	37	5	0	7	11	17	17	.340	.477	.280
Tom Glavine	128	37	6	1	3	15	24	14	.361	.406	.289
Jose Rijo	118	35	7	0	3	10	25	15	.354	.432	.297
Jose DeLeon	110	33	6	0	6	12	19	16	.371	.518	.300
Andy Benes	152	46	6	3	9	17	34	26	.372	.520	.303
Charlie Leibrandt	174	54	12	1	5	10	22	26	.349	.466	.310
Randy Tomlin	74	23	4	1	3	6	15	14	.358	.486	.311
Greg Maddux	153	48	7	1	6	11	30	20	.360	.477	.314
Mike Morgan	130	41	3	1	2	10	18	13	.366	.385	.315
Steve Avery	114	36	7	1	9	12	21	26	.377	.614	.316
John Smiley	120	39	8	0	5	4	12	18	.349	.517	.325
Ramon Martinez	176	58	13	0	11	19	17	32	.402	.591	.330
Zane Smith	117	44	10	1	4	2	17	22	.388	.564	.376

1991 totals vs. each league's top 10 in batting average, home runs and RBIs

PITCHERS VS. HITTERS

How the top pitchers fared against the top hitters.

Source: Howie Sportsdata International Project Scoresheet

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TOP 15 QUALIFIERS FOR BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP (Min. 502 Plate Appearances)

BATTER, CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GIDP	SLG	OBP
Julio Franco, Tex.	.341	146	589	108	201	279	27	3	15	78	0	2	3	65	8	78	36	9	13	.474	.408
*Wade Boggs, Bos.	.332	144	546	93	181	251	42	2	8	51	0	6	0	89	25	32	1	2	16	.460	.421
Willie Randolph, Mil.	.327	124	431	60	141	161	14	3	0	54	3	3	0	75	3	38	4	2	14	.374	.424
*Ken Griffey Jr., Sea.	.327	154	548	76	179	289	42	1	22	100	4	9	1	71	21	82	18	6	10	.527	.399
Paul Molitor, Mil.	.325	158	665	133	216	325	32	13	17	75	0	1	6	77	16	62	19	8	11	.489	.399
Cal Ripken, Bal.	.323	162	650	99	210	368	46	5	34	114	0	9	5	53	15	46	6	1	19	.566	.374
*Rafael Palmeiro, Tex.	.322	159	631	115	203	336	49	3	26	88	2	7	6	68	10	72	4	3	17	.532	.389
Kirby Puckett, Min.	.319	152	611	92	195	281	29	6	15	89	8	7	4	31	4	78	11	5	27	.460	.352
Frank Thomas, Chi.	.318	158	559	104	178	309	31*	2	32	109	0	2	1	138	13	112	1	2	20	.553	.453
Danny Tartabull, K.C.	.316	132	484	78	153	287	35*	3	31	100	0	5	3	65	6	121	6	3	9	.593	.397
#Ruben Sierra, Tex.	.307	161	661	110	203	332	44	5	25	116	0	9	0	56	7	91	16	4	17	.502	.357
Edgar Martinez, Sea.	.307	150	544	98	167	246	35	1	14	52	2	4	8	84	9	72	0	3	19	.452	.405
Steve Sax, N.Y.	.304	158	652	85	198	270	38	2	10	56	5	6	3	41	2	38	31	11	15	.414	.345
*Wally Joyner, Cal.	.301	143	551	79	166	269	34	3	21	96	2	5	1	52	4	66	2	0	11	.488	.360
*Mike Greenwell, Bos.	.300	147	544	76	163	228	26	6	9	83	1	7	3	43	6	35	15	5	11	.419	.350

*Bats left-handed #Switch-hitter

HITS

216	Molitor, Mil.
210	C. Ripken, Bal.
203	Palmeiro, Tex.
203	Sierra, Tex.
201	Franco, Tex.
198	Sax, N.Y.
195	Puckett, Min.
188	Alomar, Tor.
181	White, Tor.
181	Boggs, Bos.

RUNS

133	Molitor, Mil.
115	Palmeiro, Tex.
115	Canseco, Oak.
110	Sierra, Tex.
110	White, Tor.
108	Franco, Tex.
105	R. Henderson, Oak.
104	Thomas, Chi.
102	Fielder, Det.
102	Raines, Chi.

DOUBLES

49	Palmeiro, Tex.
46	C. Ripken, Bal.
44	Sierra, Tex.
42	Griffey Jr., Sea.
42	Reed, Bos.
42	Carter, Tor.
42	Boggs, Bos.
41	Alomar, Tor.

TRIPLES

13	Johnson, Chi.
13	Molitor, Mil.
11	Alomar, Tor.
10	Devereaux, Bal.
10	White, Tor.
9	McRae, K.C.
9	Gladde, Min.

HOME RUNS

44	Fielder, Det.
44	Canseco, Oak.
34	C. Ripken, Bal.
33	Carter, Tor.
32	Thomas, Chi.
31	Tettleton, Det.
31	Tartabull, K.C.
29	Davis, Min.
28	Belle, Cle.
28	Clark, Bos.
28	Winfield, Cal.

RUNS BATTED IN

133	Fielder, Det.
122	Canseco, Oak.
116	Sierra, Tex.
114	C. Ripken, Bal.
109	Thomas, Chi.
108	Carter, Tor.
102	Gonzalez, Tex.
100	Ventura, Chi.
100	Griffey Jr., Sea.
100	Tartabull, K.C.

TOTAL BASES

368	C. Ripken, Bal.
336	Palmeiro, Tex.
332	Sierra, Tex.
325	Molitor, Mil.
321	Carter, Tor.
320	Fielder, Det.
318	Canseco, Oak.
309	Thomas, Chi.
292	White, Tor.
289	Griffey Jr., Sea.

EXTRA-BASE HITS

85	Ripken, Bal.
78	Palmeiro, Tex.
78	Carter, Tor.
77	Canseco, Oak.
74	Sierra, Tex.
69	Fielder, Det.
69	Tartabull, K.C.
67	White, Tor.
65	Thomas, Chi.
65	Griffey Jr., Sea.

MULTI-HIT GAMES

73	C. Ripken, Bal.
65	Molitor, Mil.
64	Franco, Tex.
64	Puckett, Min.
59	Palmeiro, Tex.
58	Sierra, Tex.
58	Sax, N.Y.
56	White, Tor.
54	3 Players Tied

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

.593	Tartabull, K.C.
.566	C. Ripken, Bal.
.556	Canseco, Oak.
.553	Thomas, Chi.
.532	Palmeiro, Tex.
.527	Griffey Jr., Sea.
.513	Fielder, Det.
.507	Davis, Min.
.503	Carter, Tor.
.502	Sierra, Tex.

WALKS

138	Thomas, Chi.
101	Tettleton, Det.
98	R. Henderson, Oak.
96	Clark, Bos.
95	Davis, Min.
93	McGwire, Oak.
90	Whitaker, Det.
89	Deer, Det.
89	Boggs, Bos.
84	Martinez, Sea.
84	Milligan, Bal.

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE

.453	Thomas, Chi.
.424	Randolph, Mil.
.421	Boggs, Bos.
.408	Franco, Tex.
.405	Martinez, Sea.
.400	R. Henderson, Oak.
.399	Molitor, Mil.
.399	Griffey Jr., Sea.
.397	Tartabull, K.C.
.391	Whitaker, Det.

PINCH HITTING

.550	Seitzer, K.C.
.440	Leius, Min.
.429	Tabler, Tor.
.400	Evans, Bal.
.382	Bush, Min.
.375	Downing, Tex.
.364	Newson, Chi.
.324	Browne, Cle.
.300	Jones, Sea.
.292	Briley, Sea.

TOUGHEST TO FAN (Plate appearances per strikeout)

20.03	Boggs, Bos.
18.61	Sax, N.Y.
17.09	Greenwell, Bos.
16.76	Surhoff, Mil.
15.85	Knoblauch, Min.
15.59	C. Ripken, Bal.
14.61	Guillen, Chi.
13.47	Randolph, Mil.
13.13	Reed, Bos.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

EASIEST TO FAN (Plate appearances per strikeout)

3.08	Deer, Det.
4.11	Fryman, Det.
4.38	Canseco, Oak.
4.40	Clark, Bos.
4.60	Tartabull, K.C.
4.63	Maas, N.Y.
4.64	Tettleton, Det.
4.72	Fielder, Det.
4.91	Vaughn, Mil.
5.04	McGwire, Oak.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

TOUGHEST TO DOUBLE (Plate appearances per GIDP)

190.7	Whitaker, Det.
177.3	Deer, Det.
148.0	Maas, N.Y.
143.8	Alomar, Tor.
136.5	Cuyler, Det.
122.8	Vaughn, Mil.
117.7	Carter, Tor.
102.1	White, Tor.
101.3	Raines, Chi.
87.8	Hall, N.Y.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

BASERUNNING

TAKING EXTRA BASE*

BEST	OPP	BASES TAKEN	PCT
Shumpert, K.C.	27	24	.889
Polonia, Cal.	51	41	.804
Griffey Jr., Sea.	44	33	.750
Huson, Tex.	20	15	.750
Barfield, N.Y.	19	14	.737
Gladde, Min.	41	30	.732
Whiten, Tor.-Cle.	29	21	.724
Gagne, Min.	25	18	.720
Yount, Mil.	39	28	.718
R. Henderson, Oak.	46	33	.717

WORST

Myers, Tor.	21	4	.190
Ortiz, Min.	15	3	.200
Parrish, Cal.	30	6	.200
Davis, Sea.	24	5	.208
Boggs, Bos.	81	19	.235
Milligan, Bal.	49	13	.265
Incaviglia, Det.	15	4	.267
Fermin, Cle.	33	10	.303
Clark, Bos.	42	13	.310
Reed, Bos.	19	6	.316

(Min. 15 opportunities)

STOLEN BASE PERCENTAGE

BEST

.833	Knoblauch, Min.
.828	Alomar, Tor.
.818	Gibson, K.C.
.813	Canseco, Oak.
.804	Cuyler, Det.
.800	Franco, Tex.
.800	Sierra, Tex.
.800	Wilson, Oak.
.780	Kelly, N.Y.
.778	Reynolds, Sea.

WORST

.550	Gagne, Min.
.583	Guillen, Chi.
.591	Mack, Min.
.607	Shumpert, K.C.
.614	Cole, Cle.
.625	Gladde, Min.
.636	Bichette, Mil.
.636	Spier, Mil.
.640	Devereaux, Bal.
.645	McRae, K.C.

(Min. 20 attempts)

STOLEN BASES

58	R. Henderson, Oak.
53	Alomar, Tor.
51	Raines, Chi.
48	Polonia, Cal.
41	Cuyler, Det.
36	Franco, Tex.
33	White, Tor.
32	Kelly, N.Y.
31	Sax, N.Y.
29	Pettis, Tex.

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

CLUTCH HITTING*

BEST

.394	Quintana, Bos.
.389	Hamilton, Mil.
.389	Hrbek, Min.
.378	Puckett, Min.
.357	Reimer, Tex.
.354	Martinez, Sea.
.347	C. Ripken, Bal.
.343	Davis, Min.
.342	Spier, Mil.
.330	Franco, Tex.

WORST

.105	Parrish, Cal.
.116	Newman, Min.
.122	Maldonado, Mil.-Tor.
.127	Pena, Bos.
.152	Incaviglia, Det.
.154	Rivera, Bos.
.157	Trammell, Det.
.164	Deer, Det.
.169	McGwire, Oak.
.177	Gibson, K.C.

(Min. 50 plate appearances; 7th inning or later, batter's team no more than one run ahead, is tied, or has tying run on base, at bat or on deck)

RUNNERS IN SCORING POSITION*

BEST

.374	Tartabull, K.C.
.373	Randolph, Mil.
.368	Hamilton, Mil.
.347	Thomas, Chi.
.342	Sierra, Tex.
.333	Ventura, Chi.
.333	Polonia, Cal.
.331	Joyner, Cal.
.329	Griffey Jr., Sea.
.326	Molitor, Mil.

WORST

.150	Stubbs, Mil.
.163	Valle, Sea.
.168	Deer, Det.
.169	Incaviglia, Det.
.172	White, Tor.
.179	Maas, N.Y.
.186	Cuyler, Det.
.188	Gomez, Bal.
.195	Pagliarulo, Min.
.202	Rivera, Bos.

(Min. 100 plate appearances)

VS. RIGHTHANDED PITCHERS*

BEST

.361	Boggs, Bos.
.342	Palmeiro, Tex.
.332	Franco, Tex.
.332	Griffey Jr., Sea.
.326	Molitor, Mil.
.325	Tartabull, K.C.
.319	Polonia, Cal.
.316	Alomar, Tor.
.315	Joyner, Cal.
.315	C. Ripken, Bal.

WORST

.201	McGwire, Oak.
.215	Pena, Bos.
.216	Davis, Sea.
.225	Gallejo, Oak.
.225	Clark, Bos.
.230	Vizquel, Sea.
.241	Parker, Cal.-Tor.
.244	Fryman, Det.
.245	McRae, K.C.
.247	Carter, Tor.

(Min. 377 plate appearances)

VS. LEFTHANDED PITCHERS*

BEST

.406	Puckett, Min.
.376	Thomas, Chi.
.368	Franco, Tex.
.359	Martinez, Sea.
.358	Randolph, Mil.
.357	Phillips, Det.
.354	D. Henderson, Oak.
.350	Mack, Min.
.348	C. Ripken, Bal.
.344	Sax, N.Y.

WORST

.183	Schofield, Cal.
.190	Tabler

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TOP 15 QUALIFIERS FOR BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Min. 502 Plate Appearances)

BATTER, CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GDP	SLG	OBP
#Terry Pendleton, Atl.	.319	153	586	94	187	303	34	8	22	86	7	7	1	43	8	70	10	2	16	.517	.363
*Hal Morris, Cin.	.318	136	478	72	152	229	33	1	14	59	5	7	1	46	7	61	10	4	4	.479	.374
*Tony Gwynn, S.D.	.317	134	530	69	168	229	27	11	4	62	0	5	0	34	8	19	8	8	11	.432	.355
#Willie McGee, S.F.	.312	131	497	67	155	203	30	3	4	43	8	2	2	34	3	74	17	9	11	.408	.357
#Felix Jose, St.L.	.305	154	568	69	173	249	40	6	8	77	0	5	2	50	8	113	20	12	12	.438	.360
Barry Larkin, Cin.	.302	123	464	88	140	235	27	4	20	69	3	2	3	55	1	64	24	6	7	.506	.378
#Bobby Bonilla, Pit.	.302	157	577	102	174	284	44	6	18	100	0	11	2	90	8	67	2	4	14	.492	.391
*Will Clark, S.F.	.301	148	565	84	170	303	32	7	29	116	0	4	2	51	12	91	4	2	5	.536	.359
Chris Sabo, Cin.	.301	153	582	91	175	294	35	3	26	88	5	3	6	44	3	79	19	6	13	.505	.354
Ivan Calderon, Mon.	.300	134	470	69	141	226	22	3	19	75	1	10	3	53	4	64	31	16	7	.481	.368
*Brett Butler, L.A.	.296	161	615	112	182	211	13	5	2	38	4	2	1	108	4	79	38	28	3	.343	.401
Craig Biggio, Hou.	.295	149	546	79	161	204	23	4	4	46	5	3	2	53	3	71	19	6	2	.374	.358
Jeff Bagwell, Hou.	.294	156	554	79	163	242	26	4	15	82	1	7	13	75	5	116	7	4	12	.437	.387
*John Kruk, Phil.	.294	152	538	84	158	260	27	6	21	92	0	9	1	67	16	100	7	0	11	.483	.367
*Barry Bonds, Pit.	.292	153	510	95	149	262	28	5	25	116	0	13	4	107	25	73	43	13	8	.514	.410

*Bats left-handed #Switch-hitter

HITS

187	Pendleton, Atl.
182	Butler, L.A.
175	Sabo, Cin.
174	Bonilla, Pit.
173	Jose, St.L.
170	Finley, Hou.
170	Clark, S.F.
170	Sandberg, Chi.
169	Grace, Chi.

RUNS

112	Butler, L.A.
108	Johnson, N.Y.
104	Sandberg, Chi.
102	Bonilla, Pit.
101	Gant, Atl.
96	Bell, Pit.
96	Smith, St.L.
95	Bonds, Pit.
94	Pendleton, Atl.

DOUBLES

44	Bonilla, Pit.
40	Jose, St.L.
36	Zeile, St.L.
36	O'Neill, Cin.
35	Sabo, Cin.
35	Gant, Atl.
34	Pendleton, Atl.
34	Johnson, N.Y.

TRIPLES

15	Lankford, St.L.
11	Gwynn, S.D.
11	Finley, Hou.
9	Gonzalez, Hou.
9	Grissom, Mon.
8	Bell, Pit.
8	Pendleton, Atl.
8	Owen, Mon.

HOME RUNS

38	Johnson, N.Y.
34	Williams, S.F.
32	Gant, Atl.
31	McGriff, S.D.
31	Dawson, Chi.
29	Clark, S.F.
28	Strawberry, L.A.
28	O'Neill, Cin.
27	Mitchell, S.F.
26	Sabo, Cin.
26	Sandberg, Chi.

RUNS BATTED IN

117	Johnson, N.Y.
116	Bonds, Pit.
116	Clark, S.F.
106	McGriff, S.D.
105	Gant, Atl.
104	Dawson, Chi.
100	Bonilla, Pit.
100	Sandberg, Chi.
99	Strawberry, L.A.
98	Williams, S.F.

TOTAL BASES

303	Clark, S.F.
303	Pendleton, Atl.
302	Johnson, N.Y.
294	Williams, S.F.
294	Sabo, Cin.
284	Bonilla, Pit.
284	Sandberg, Chi.
278	Gant, Atl.
275	Dawson, Chi.
262	Bonds, Pit.

EXTRA-BASE HITS

76	Johnson, N.Y.
70	Gant, Atl.
68	Clark, S.F.
68	Bonilla, Pit.
64	Sabo, Cin.
64	Pendleton, Atl.
64	O'Neill, Cin.
63	Williams, S.F.
60	Sandberg, Chi.
58	Bonds, Pit.

MULTI-HIT GAMES

52	Pendleton, Atl.
51	Jose, St.L.
50	Gwynn, S.D.
50	Murray, L.A.
49	Sabo, Cin.
48	Biggio, Hou.
48	Clark, S.F.
47	5 Players Tied

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

.536	Clark, S.F.
.535	Johnson, N.Y.
.517	Pendleton, Atl.
.514	Bonds, Pit.
.506	Larkin, Cin.
.505	Sabo, Cin.
.499	Williams, S.F.
.496	Gant, Atl.
.494	McGriff, S.D.
.492	Bonilla, Pit.

WALKS

108	Butler, L.A.
107	Bonds, Pit.
105	McGriff, S.D.
95	DeShields, Mon.
90	Bonilla, Pit.
87	Sandberg, Chi.
83	Magadan, N.Y.
83	Smith, St.L.
78	Johnson, N.Y.
75	Bagwell, Hou.
75	Strawberry, L.A.

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE

.410	Bonds, Pit.
.401	Butler, L.A.
.396	McGriff, S.D.
.391	Bonilla, Pit.
.387	Bagwell, Hou.
.380	Smith, St.L.
.379	Sandberg, Chi.
.378	Magadan, N.Y.
.378	Larkin, Cin.
.374	Morris, Cin.

PINCH HITTING

.406	Walker, Chi.
.394	Winningsham, Cin.
.361	Lindeman, Phil.
.357	Thompson, St.L.
.343	Carreon, N.Y.
.333	Lemke, Atl.
.321	Jordan, Phil.
.313	Hansen, L.A.
.308	Jones, Cin.
.304	Noboa, Mon.

(Min. 20 at-bats)

TOUGHEST TO FAN

(Plate appearances per strikeout)

29.95	Gwynn, S.D.
17.81	Smith, St.L.
14.18	Jefferies, N.Y.
13.26	Grace, Chi.
12.57	McReynolds, N.Y.
10.34	Magadan, N.Y.
10.31	Candaele, Hou.
10.15	Bonilla, Pit.
10.09	Finley, Hou.
9.73	Lind, Pit.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

EASIEST TO FAN

(Plate appearances per strikeout)

4.46	DeShields, Mon.
4.58	Daniels, L.A.
4.70	Strawberry, L.A.
4.76	McGriff, S.D.
4.95	Samuel, L.A.
4.96	Williams, S.F.
5.21	Gonzalez, Hou.
5.28	Walker, Mon.
5.39	Lankford, St.L.
5.39	Santiago, S.D.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

TOUGHEST TO DOUBLE

(Plate appearances per GDP)

304.5	Biggio, Hou.
243.3	Butler, L.A.
164.5	Johnson, N.Y.
153.8	Lankford, St.L.
134.3	Morris, Cin.
124.4	Clark, S.F.
117.2	Grace, Chi.
115.4	Van Slyke, Pit.
114.6	Thompson, S.F.
112.2	DeShields, Mon.

(Min. 502 plate appearances)

BASERUNNING

TAKING EXTRA BASE*

BEST	OPP	BASES TAKEN	PCT
Dunston, Chi.	19	18	.947
Perry, St.L.	16	13	.813
Griffin, L.A.	16	12	.750
Gant, Atl.	30	22	.733
Redus, Pit.	17	12	.706
Bellard, Atl.	26	18	.692
Cedeno, Hou.	16	11	.688
Fernandez, S.D.	41	28	.683
Calderon, Mon.	28	19	.679
Bonds, Pit.	43	29	.674
Thompson, S.F.	43	29	.674

WORST

LaValiere, Pit.	25	3	.120
Slaughter, Pit.	15	2	.134
Murray, L.A.	44	9	.205
Guerrero, St.L.	37	8	.216
Cerone, N.Y.	17	4	.235
Barberie, Mon.	15	4	.267
Sciocchia, L.A.	22	6	.273
Ramirez, Hou.	17	5	.294
Walton, Chi.	20	6	.300
Bass, S.F.	19	6	.316

(Min. 15 opportunities)

STOLEN BASE PERCENTAGE

BEST

.857	Elster, N.Y.
.850	Redus, Pit.
.844	Landrum, Chi.
.839	Jefferies, N.Y.
.817	Grissom, Mon.
.800	Larkin, Cin.
.795	Smith, St.L.
.778	Dunston, Chi.
.778	Felder, S.F.
.774	Nixon, Atl.

WORST

.409	Pagnozzi, St.L.
.550	Hatcher, Cin.
.550	Yielding, Hou.
.576	Butler, L.A.
.600	Hudler, St.L.
.607	Zeile, St.L.
.609	Walker, Mon.
.625	Jose, St.L.
.636	Gilkey, St.L.
.640	Thompson, St.L.

(Min. 20 attempts)

STOLEN BASES

76	Grissom, Mon.
72	Nixon, Atl.
55	DeShields, Mon.
44	Lankford, St.L.
43	Bonds, Pit.
38	Butler, L.A.
37	Coleman, N.Y.
35	Smith, St.L.
34	Finley, Hou.
34	Gant, Atl.

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

CLUTCH HITTING*

BEST

.360	Bagwell, Hou.
.358	Lemke, Atl.
.357	Dunston, Chi.
.352	Nixon, Atl.
.352	Jose, St.L.
.348	Gwynn, S.D.
.344	Calderon, Mon.
.341	Pendleton, Atl.
.339	Dascenzo, Chi.
.338	Bonds, Pit.

WORST

.140	Elster, N.Y.
.148	Mitchell, S.F.
.152	Berryhill, Chi.-Atl.
.160	Wilkerson, Pit.
.161	Walton, Chi.
.169	Gant, Atl.
.169	Jackson, S.D.
.170	Javier, L.A.
.179	Magadan, N.Y.
.182	Ready, Phil.

(Min. 50 plate appearances; 7th inning or later, batter's team no more than one run ahead, is tied, or has tying run on base, at bat or on deck)

RUNNERS IN SCORING POSITION*

BEST

.377	Gwynn, S.D.
.350	Guerrero, St.L.
.347	Justice, Atl.
.345	Bonds, Pit.
.343	McGee, S.F.
.343	Jose, St.L.
.340	Hatcher, Cin.
.338	Sandberg, Chi.
.336	Clark, S.F.
.326	Merced, Pit.

WORST

.173	Galarraga, Mon.
.198	Bass, S.F.
.210	Brooks, N.Y.
.213	Teufel, N.Y.-S.D.
.215	Owen, Mon.
.220	Thon, Phil.
.221	Thompson, St.L.
.229	Grace, Chi.
.229	Thompson, S.F.
.235	Bell, Chi.

(Min. 100 plate appearances)

VS. RIGHTHANDED PITCHERS*

BEST

.336	Morris, Cin.
.334	Clark, S.F.
.328	Pendleton, Atl.
.313	Bonilla, Pit.
.306	Butler, L.A.
.306	Biggio, Hou.
.301	Finley, Hou.
.298	Harris, L.A.
.298	Bonds, Pit.
.292	Kruk, Phil.

WORST

.213	Caminiti, Hou.
.227	Wallach, Mon.
.227	Murphy, Phil.
.237	Gant, Atl.
.249	DeShields, Mon.
.253	Sandberg, Chi.
.255	Thompson, S.F.
.258	Santiago, S.D.
.261	Bell, Pit.
.262	Johnson, N.Y.

(Min. 377 plate appearances)

VS. LEFTHANDED PITCHERS*

BEST

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TOP 15 QUALIFIERS FOR EARNED RUN AVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

PITCHER, CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	SH	SF	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OBA
Roger Clemens, Bos.	18	10	2.62	35	35	13	4	0	271.1	219	93	79	15	6	8	5	65	12	241	6	0	.221
Tom Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.	13	13	2.65	34	34	6	0	0	237.3	202	82	70	12	4	11	6	73	1	167	11	0	.228
Bill Wegman, Mil.	15	7	2.84	28	28	7	2	0	193.1	176	76	61	16	6	4	7	40	0	89	6	0	.242
*Jim Abbott, Cal.	18	11	2.89	34	34	5	1	0	243.0	222	85	78	14	7	7	5	73	6	158	1	4	.244
Nolan Ryan, Tex.	12	6	2.91	27	27	2	2	0	173.0	102	58	56	12	3	9	5	72	0	203	8	0	.172
Mike Moore, Oak.	17	8	2.96	33	33	3	1	0	210.0	176	75	69	11	5	4	5	105	1	153	14	0	.229
Kevin Tapani, Min.	16	9	2.99	34	34	4	1	0	244.0	225	84	81	23	9	6	2	40	0	135	3	3	.245
*Mark Langston, Cal.	19	8	3.00	34	34	7	0	0	246.1	190	89	82	30	4	6	2	96	3	183	6	0	.215
*Jimmy Key, Tor.	16	12	3.05	33	33	2	2	0	209.7	207	84	71	12	10	5	3	44	3	125	1	0	.254
Bret Saberhagen, K.C.	13	8	3.07	28	28	7	2	0	196.1	165	76	67	12	8	3	9	45	5	136	8	1	.228
Jose Guzman, Tex.	13	7	3.08	25	25	5	1	0	169.2	152	67	58	10	2	3	4	84	1	125	8	1	.239
Scott Erickson, Min.	20	8	3.18	32	32	5	3	0	204.0	189	80	72	13	5	7	6	71	3	108	4	0	.248
Chris Bosio, Mil.	14	10	3.25	32	32	5	1	0	204.2	187	80	74	15	2	6	8	58	0	117	5	0	.244
Jack McDowell, Chi.	17	10	3.41	35	35	15	3	0	253.2	212	97	96	19	8	4	4	82	2	191	10	1	.228
Kevin Appier, K.C.	13	10	3.42	34	31	6	3	0	207.2	205	97	79	13	8	6	2	61	3	158	7	1	.255

*Left-handed

GAMES STARTED

35	Clemens, Bos.
35	Gullickson, Det.
35	McDowell, Chi.
35	Morris, Min.
35	Stewart, Oak.
35	Welch, Oak.
34	8 Players Tied

INNINGS PITCHED

271.1	Clemens, Bos.
253.2	McDowell, Chi.
246.2	Morris, Min.
246.1	Langston, Cal.
244.0	Tapani, Min.
243.0	Abbott, Cal.
238.0	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
238.0	Swindell, Cle.
234.0	Navarro, Mil.
227.1	Finley, Cal.

COMPLETE GAMES

15	McDowell, Chi.
13	Clemens, Bos.
10	Morris, Min.
10	Navarro, Mil.
8	Terrell, Det.
7	Langston, Cal.
7	Saberhagen, K.C.
7	Swindell, Cle.
7	Wegman, Mil.
7	Welch, Oak.

STRIKEOUTS

241	Clemens, Bos.
228	Johnson, Sea.
203	Ryan, Tex.
191	McDowell, Chi.
183	Langston, Cal.
171	Finley, Cal.
169	Swindell, Cle.
167	Gordon, K.C.
167	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
163	Morris, Min.

WINS

20	Erickson, Min.
20	Gullickson, Det.
19	Langston, Cal.
18	Abbott, Cal.
18	Clemens, Bos.
18	Finley, Cal.
18	Morris, Min.
17	McDowell, Chi.
17	Moore, Oak.
16	3 Players Tied

STRIKEOUTS PER 9 INNINGS

10.6	Ryan, Tex.
10.2	Johnson, Sea.
8.0	Clemens, Bos.
7.4	Hanson, Sea.
6.8	Appier, K.C.
6.8	Fernandez, Chi.
6.8	Finley, Cal.
6.8	McDowell, Chi.
6.7	Langston, Cal.
6.6	Guzman, Tex.

FEWEST WALKS PER 9 INNINGS

1.2	Swindell, Cle.
1.3	Sanderson, N.Y.
1.5	Tapani, Min.
1.7	Gullickson, Det.
1.9	Key, Tor.
1.9	Wegman, Mil.
2.1	Saberhagen, K.C.
2.2	Clemens, Bos.
2.2	Wells, Tor.
2.6	Bosio, Mil.

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

HOME ERA* BEST

2.14	Moore, Oak.
2.52	Swindell, Cle.
2.57	Abbott, Cal.
2.59	Clemens, Bos.
2.62	Wegman, Mil.
2.65	Holman, Sea.
2.76	Saberhagen, K.C.
2.79	Tapani, Min.
2.79	Appier, K.C.
3.03	Finley, Cal.

(Min. 81 innings pitched)

ROAD ERA* BEST

2.25	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
2.64	Key, Tor.
2.64	Langston, Cal.
2.64	Guzman, Tex.
2.66	Clemens, Bos.
2.74	Bosio, Mil.
2.82	McDowell, Chi.
2.86	Erickson, Min.
2.88	Wells, Tor.
3.01	Gullickson, Det.

(Min. 81 innings pitched)

VS. RIGHTHANDED BATTERS* BEST

.191	Erickson, Min.
.210	Morris, Min.
.212	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
.213	Johnson, Sea.
.215	Langston, Cal.
.222	Hough, Chi.
.223	Clemens, Bos.
.228	Stottlemire, Tor.
.230	Moore, Oak.
.231	McDowell, Chi.

WORST

.328	Ballard, Bal.
.328	Terrell, Det.
.313	Johnson, N.Y.
.303	Gullickson, Det.
.298	Rogers, Tex.
.296	Terrell, Det.
.296	Anderson, Min.
.294	Brown, Tex.
.284	Krueger, Sea.
.273	Tanana, Det.

(Min. 377 batters faced)

VS. LEFTHANDED BATTERS* BEST

.181	Flanagan, Bal.
.183	Ryan, Tex.
.183	Harvey, Cal.
.184	Aguilera, Min.
.193	Ward, Tor.
.193	Guzman, Tex.
.193	Swan, Sea.
.202	Perez, Chi.
.207	Darling, Oak.
.208	Wells, Tor.

WORST

.405	Johnson, Bal.
.367	Leach, Min.
.350	Robinson, Bal.
.345	Gibson, Det.
.341	Jones, Cle.
.335	Davis, K.C.
.333	Lamp, Bos.
.326	Gubicza, K.C.
.325	Taylor, N.Y.
.318	August, Mil.

(Min. 125 batters faced)

BASERUNNERS PER 9 INNINGS* BEST

9.31	Ryan, Tex.
9.59	Clemens, Bos.
9.84	Tapani, Min.
10.04	Sanderson, N.Y.
10.04	Saberhagen, K.C.
10.38	Wegman, Mil.
10.40	Swindell, Cle.
10.52	Langston, Cal.
10.57	McDowell, Chi.
10.63	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.

WORST

14.35	Brown, Tex.
14.29	Stewart, Oak.
14.08	Johnson, Sea.
13.91	Terrell, Det.
13.27	McCaskill, Cal.
13.27	Krueger, Sea.
13.18	Holman, Sea.
13.17	Welch, Oak.
12.96	Fernandez, Chi.
12.95	Boddicker, K.C.

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

RUN SUPPORT PER 9 INNINGS* MOST

6.13	Stewart, Oak.
5.81	Gullickson, Det.
5.74	Erickson, Min.
5.53	McDowell, Chi.
5.49	DeLucia, Sea.
5.38	Finley, Cal.
5.31	Tapani, Min.
5.21	Wegman, Mil.
5.20	Guzman, Tex.
5.18	Tanana, Det.

LEAST

3.14	McCaskill, Cal.
3.38	Fernandez, Chi.
3.41	Nagy, Cle.
3.52	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
3.63	Swindell, Cle.
3.64	Holman, Sea.
3.95	Harris, Bos.
4.11	Milacki, Bal.
4.17	Krueger, Sea.
4.17	August, Mil.

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE BEST

.172	Ryan, Tex.
.213	Johnson, Sea.
.215	Langston, Cal.
.221	Clemens, Bos.
.228	Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.
.228	Saberhagen, K.C.
.228	McDowell, Chi.
.229	Hough, Chi.
.229	Moore, Oak.
.235	Stottlemire, Tor.

WORST

.301	Terrell, Det.
.289	Krueger, Sea.
.288	Gullickson, Det.
.284	Brown, Tex.
.283	McCaskill, Cal.
.278	Stewart, Oak.
.275	Nagy, Cle.
.272	Boddicker, K.C.
.269	Hanson, Sea.
.268	Holman, Sea.

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

HOLDING RUNNERS* BEST

Harris, Bos.	SB-ATT	PCT
Erickson, Min.	1-7	14
DeLucia, Sea.	4-14	29
Brown, Tex.	4-13	31
Wells, Tor.	5-16	31
Langston, Cal.	8-21	38
Welch, Oak.	10-25	40
Hibbard, Chi.	12-28	43
Holman, Sea.	6-14	43
Swindell, Cle.	4-9	44
Swindell, Cle.	9-20	45

WORST

Stottlemire, Tor.	SB-ATT	PCT
Tapani, Min.	18-21	86
Morris, Min.	32-40	80
Navarro, Mil.	23-30	77
Nagy, Cle.	23-30	77
Candiotti, Cle.-Tor.	26-34	77
Key, Tor.	6-8	75
Ryan, Tex.	24-32	75
Stewart, Oak.	23-32	72
Sanderson, N.Y.	16-23	70

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

BULLPEN

GAMES

81	Ward, Tor.
72	Jackson, Sea.
72	Olson, Bal.
71	Swift, Sea.
70	Eichhorn, Cal.
70	Jeffcoat, Tex.
68	Cadaret, N.Y.
68	Gibson, Det.
68	Russell, Tex.
67	5 Players Tied

SAVES

46	Harvey, Cal.
43	Eckersley, Oak.
42	Aguilera, Min.
40	Reardon, Bos.
33	Montgomery, K.C.
32	Henke, Tor.
31	Olson, Bal.
30	Russell, Tex.
30	Thigpen, Chi.
23	2 Players Tied

(All relievers with min. 20 save opportunities)

STRIKEOUTS PER INNING

1.28	Harvey, Cal.
1.23	Ward, Tor.
1.14	Eckersley, Oak.
1.11	Machado, Mil.
1.06	Henke, Tor.
1.00	Robinson, Cal.
.98	Olson, Bal.
.94	Perez, Chi.
.92	Plunk, N.Y.
.89	Mathews, Tex.

(Min. 50 innings pitched)

SAVE PERCENTAGE*

	SV	BS	PCT
Henke, Tor.	32	3	.914
Harvey, Cal.	46	6	.885
Henneman, Det.	21	3	.875
Ward, Tor.	23	4	.852
Montgomery, K.C.	33	6	.846
Eckersley, Oak.	43	8	.843
Aguilera, Min.	42	9	.823
Reardon, Bos.	40	9	.816
Olson, Bal.	31	8	.795
Farr, N.Y.	23	6	.793
Olin, Cle.	17	5	.773
Thigpen, Chi.	30	9	.769
Russell, Tex.	30	10	.750
Jackson, Sea.	14	8	.636

(All relievers with min. 20 save opportunities)

FIRST BATTER EFFICIENCY*

BEST	H-AB	AVG
Frohwirth, Bal.	5-46	.109
Willis, Min.	4-35	.114
Aguilera, Min.	7-55	.127
Fossas, Bos.	7-54	.130
Bodrosian, Min.	7-52	.135
Jackson, Sea.	9-61	.148
Machado, Mil.	7-45	.156
Olson, Bal.	12-66	.182
Eichhorn, Cal.	12-65	.185
Radinsky, Chi.	11-59	.186
WORST		
Holmes, Mil.	14-35	.400
Russell, Tex.	23-59	.390
Olin, Cle.	15-40	.375
Perez, Chi.	13-35	.371
Gibson, Det.	21-60	.350
Jeffcoat, Tex.	21-61	.344
Crim, Mil.	21-63	.333
Swan, Sea.	19-58	.328
Orsco, Cle.	14-43	.326
Gossage, Tex.	13-40	.325
(Min. 40 first batters faced)		

WORST

Holmes, Mil.	14-35	.400
Russell, Tex.	23-59	.390
Olin, Cle.	15-40	.375
Perez, Chi.	13-35	.371
Gibson, Det.	21-60	.350
Jeffcoat, Tex.	21-61	

BASEBALL
ENCYCLOPEDIA

800-654-5472

See our ad on page 145

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TOP 15 QUALIFIERS FOR EARNED RUN AVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

PITCHER, CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	SH	SF	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OBA
Dennis Martinez, Mon.	14	11	2.39	31	31	9	5	0	222.0	187	70	59	9	7	3	4	62	3	123	3	0	.226
Jose Rijo, Cin.	15	6	2.51	30	30	3	1	0	204.1	165	69	57	8	4	3	3	55	4	172	2	4	.219
*Tom Glavine, Atl.	20	11	2.55	34	34	9	1	0	246.2	201	83	70	17	7	6	2	69	6	192	10	2	.222
Tim Lincecum, L.A.	10	9	2.62	33	33	2	1	0	209.1	189	76	61	10	11	3	2	75	3	156	7	0	.240
Pete Harnisch, Hou.	12	9	2.70	33	33	4	2	0	216.2	169	71	65	14	9	7	5	83	3	172	5	2	.212
Jose DeLeon, St.L.	5	9	2.71	28	28	1	0	0	162.2	144	57	49	15	5	4	6	61	1	118	1	1	.239
Mike Morgan, L.A.	14	10	2.78	34	33	5	1	1	236.1	197	85	73	12	10	4	3	61	10	140	6	0	.226
*Randy Tomlin, Pit.	8	7	2.98	31	27	4	2	0	175.0	170	75	58	9	5	2	6	54	4	104	2	3	.254
Andy Benes, S.D.	15	11	3.03	33	33	4	1	0	223.0	194	76	75	23	5	4	4	59	7	167	3	4	.232
Doug Drabek, Pit.	15	14	3.07	35	35	5	2	0	234.2	245	92	80	16	12	6	3	62	6	142	5	0	.274
*John Smiley, Pit.	20	8	3.08	33	32	2	1	0	207.2	194	78	71	17	11	4	3	44	0	129	3	1	.251
*Bob Ojeda, L.A.	12	9	3.19	31	31	2	1	0	189.1	181	78	67	15	15	9	3	70	9	120	4	2	.257
*Zane Smith, Pit.	16	10	3.20	35	35	6	3	0	228.0	234	95	81	15	7	5	2	29	3	120	1	0	.268
Bob Tewksbury, St.L.	11	12	3.25	30	30	3	0	0	191.0	206	86	69	13	12	10	5	38	2	75	0	0	.281
Ramon Martinez, L.A.	17	13	3.27	33	33	6	4	0	220.1	190	89	80	18	8	4	7	69	4	150	6	0	.229

GAMES STARTED

37 Maddux, Chi.	263.0	Maddux, Chi.
36 Browning, Cin.	246.2	Glavine, Atl.
36 Leibbrandt, Atl.	236.1	Morgan, L.A.
36 Smoltz, Atl.	234.2	Drabek, Pit.
35 Avery, Atl.	232.2	Cone, N.Y.
35 Drabek, Pit.	232.0	Mulholland, Phil.
35 Z. Smith, Pit.	231.1	Viola, N.Y.
35 Viola, N.Y.	230.1	Browning, Cin.
SHUTOUTS	229.2	Leibbrandt, Atl.
5 D. Martinez, Mon.	229.2	Smoltz, Atl.
4 R. Martinez, L.A.		
3 Black, S.F.		
3 Mulholland, Phil.		
3 Z. Smith, Pit.		

INNINGS
PITCHEDCOMPLETE
GAMES

9 Glavine, Atl.	241	Cone, N.Y.
9 D. Martinez, Mon.	198	Maddux, Chi.
8 Mulholland, Phil.	192	Glavine, Atl.
7 Maddux, Chi.	172	Harnisch, Hou.
6 R. Martinez, L.A.	172	Rijo, Cin.
6 Z. Smith, Pit.	167	Benes, S.D.
5 Cone, N.Y.	156	Belcher, L.A.
5 Drabek, Pit.	154	Greene, Phil.
5 Morgan, L.A.	150	Gooden, N.Y.
5 Smoltz, Atl.	150	R. Martinez, L.A.

STRIKEOUTS

241 Cone, N.Y.	20	Glavine, Atl.
198 Maddux, Chi.	20	Smiley, Pit.
192 Glavine, Atl.	18	Avery, Atl.
172 Harnisch, Hou.	17	R. Martinez, L.A.
172 Rijo, Cin.	16	Mulholland, Phil.
167 Benes, S.D.	16	Z. Smith, Pit.
156 Belcher, L.A.	15	6 Players Tied
154 Greene, Phil.		
150 Gooden, N.Y.		
150 R. Martinez, L.A.		

WINS

20 Glavine, Atl.	9.3	Cone, N.Y.
20 Smiley, Pit.	7.6	Rijo, Cin.
18 Avery, Atl.	7.1	Gooden, N.Y.
17 R. Martinez, L.A.	7.1	Harnisch, Hou.
16 Mulholland, Phil.	7.0	Glavine, Atl.
16 Z. Smith, Pit.	6.8	Maddux, Chi.
15 6 Players Tied	6.7	Belcher, L.A.
	6.7	Benes, S.D.
	6.7	Greene, Phil.
	6.5	DeLeon, St.L.

STRIKEOUTS
PER 9 INNINGS

9.3 Cone, N.Y.	1.1	Z. Smith, Pit.
7.6 Rijo, Cin.	1.8	Tewksbury, St.L.
7.1 Gooden, N.Y.	1.9	Mulholland, Phil.
7.1 Harnisch, Hou.	1.9	Smiley, Pit.
7.0 Glavine, Atl.	2.0	B. Smith, St.L.
6.8 Maddux, Chi.	2.1	Viola, N.Y.
6.7 Belcher, L.A.	2.2	Browning, Cin.
6.7 Benes, S.D.	2.2	Leibbrandt, Atl.
6.7 Greene, Phil.	2.3	Maddux, Chi.
6.5 DeLeon, St.L.	2.3	Morgan, L.A.

FEWEST WALKS
PER 9 INNINGS

1.1 Z. Smith, Pit.	1.1	Z. Smith, Pit.
1.8 Tewksbury, St.L.	1.8	Tewksbury, St.L.
1.9 Mulholland, Phil.	1.9	Mulholland, Phil.
1.9 Smiley, Pit.	2.0	B. Smith, St.L.
2.0 B. Smith, St.L.	2.1	Viola, N.Y.
2.1 Viola, N.Y.	2.2	Browning, Cin.
2.2 Browning, Cin.	2.2	Leibbrandt, Atl.
2.2 Leibbrandt, Atl.	2.3	Maddux, Chi.
2.3 Maddux, Chi.	2.3	Morgan, L.A.
2.3 Morgan, L.A.		

HOME ERA*
BEST

2.16 D. Martinez, Mon.	1.82	Smoltz, Atl.
2.40 Drabek, Pit.	1.95	Belcher, L.A.
2.41 Harnisch, Hou.	2.05	Glavine, Atl.
2.42 DeLeon, St.L.	2.14	Maddux, Chi.
2.67 Belcher, L.A.	2.23	Morgan, L.A.
2.71 Wilson, S.F.	2.26	Myers, Cin.
2.71 Glavine, Atl.	2.31	Barnes, Mon.
2.78 Z. Smith, Pit.	2.35	R. Martinez, L.A.
2.81 Black, S.F.	2.35	Benes, S.D.
2.83 Tomlin, Pit.	2.37	Leibbrandt, Atl.
WORST		
4.74 Bielecki, Chi.-Atl.		
4.35 Leibbrandt, Atl.		
4.26 Viola, N.Y.		
4.10 Smoltz, Atl.		
3.91 Cone, N.Y.		
3.75 Avery, Atl.		
3.73 Benes, S.D.		
3.55 Gooden, N.Y.		
3.54 Burkett, S.F.		
3.52 B. Smith, St.L.		

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

VS. RIGHTHANDED
BATTERS*
BEST

1.82 Smoltz, Atl.	2.85	Browning, Cin.
1.95 Belcher, L.A.	2.80	Rasmussen, S.D.
2.05 Glavine, Atl.	2.79	Ruffin, Phil.
2.14 Maddux, Chi.	2.75	Tomlin, Pit.
2.23 Morgan, L.A.	2.68	Z. Smith, Pit.
2.26 Myers, Cin.	2.64	Smiley, Pit.
2.31 Barnes, Mon.	2.62	Mulholland, Phil.
2.35 R. Martinez, L.A.	2.57	Ojeda, L.A.
2.35 Benes, S.D.	2.55	Drabek, Pit.
2.37 Leibbrandt, Atl.		
WORST		
3.01 Viola, N.Y.		
2.85 Browning, Cin.		
2.80 Rasmussen, S.D.		
2.79 Ruffin, Phil.		
2.75 Tomlin, Pit.		
2.68 Z. Smith, Pit.		
2.64 Smiley, Pit.		
2.62 Mulholland, Phil.		
2.57 Ojeda, L.A.		
2.55 Drabek, Pit.		

(Min. 377 batters faced)

BASERUNNERS
PER 9 INNINGS*
BEST

9.82 Rijo, Cin.	13.82	DeJesus, Phil.
9.92 Glavine, Atl.	12.76	Burkett, S.F.
9.94 Morgan, L.A.	12.22	Viola, N.Y.
10.26 D. Martinez, Mon.	12.07	Ojeda, L.A.
10.37 Benes, S.D.	11.98	Portugal, Hou.
10.40 Maddux, Chi.	11.89	Drabek, Pit.
10.44 Smiley, Pit.	11.87	Bielecki, Chi.-Atl.
10.46 Z. Smith, Pit.	11.83	Tomlin, Pit.
10.66 Leibbrandt, Atl.	11.76	Browning, Cin.
10.66 Greene, Phil.	11.73	Tewksbury, St.L.
WORST		
13.82 DeJesus, Phil.		
12.76 Burkett, S.F.		
12.22 Viola, N.Y.		
12.07 Ojeda, L.A.		
11.98 Portugal, Hou.		
11.89 Drabek, Pit.		
11.87 Bielecki, Chi.-Atl.		
11.83 Tomlin, Pit.		
11.76 Browning, Cin.		
11.73 Tewksbury, St.L.		

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

OPPONENTS
BATTING AVERAGE
BEST

.212 Harnisch, Hou.	.286	Viola, N.Y.
.219 Rijo, Cin.	.281	Tewksbury, St.L.
.222 Glavine, Atl.	.277	Burkett, S.F.
.224 DeJesus, Phil.	.274	Drabek, Pit.
.224 Hill, St.L.	.268	Z. Smith, Pit.
.226 D. Martinez, Mon.	.266	Browning, Cin.
.226 Morgan, L.A.	.262	Bielecki, Chi.-Atl.
.229 R. Martinez, L.A.	.260	Mulholland, Phil.
.230 Gardner, Mon.	.257	Gooden, N.Y.
.230 Greene, Phil.	.257	Ojeda, L.A.
WORST		
.286 Viola, N.Y.		
.281 Tewksbury, St.L.		
.277 Burkett, S.F.		
.274 Drabek, Pit.		
.268 Z. Smith, Pit.		
.266 Browning, Cin.		
.262 Bielecki, Chi.-Atl.		
.260 Mulholland, Phil.		
.257 Gooden, N.Y.		
.257 Ojeda, L.A.		

(Min. 162 innings pitched)

BULLPEN

GAMES

77 Jones, Mon.	75	Assenmacher, Chi.
74 Stanton, Atl.	74	Agosto, St.L.
72 Burke, Mon.-N.Y.	71	McDowell, Phil.-L.A.
71 McDowell, Phil.-L.A.	71	McElroy, Chi.
71 McElroy, Chi.	71	Osuna, Hou.
69 Innis, N.Y.	69	Williams, Phil.
69 Williams, Phil.		
SAVES		
47 L. Smith, St.L.	31	Dibble, Cin.
31 Dibble, Cin.	30	Williams, Phil.
30 Williams, Phil.	30	Franco, N.Y.
30 Franco, N.Y.	24	Righthetti, S.F.
24 Righthetti, S.F.	16	Belinda, Pit.
23 Lefferts, S.D.	17	Landrum, Pit.
17 Berenguer, Atl.	17	Landrum, Pit.
17 D. Smith, Chi.	17	Landrum, Pit.
16 2 Players Tied		

SAVES

47 L. Smith, St.L.	31	Dibble, Cin.
31 Dibble, Cin.	30	Williams, Phil.
30 Williams, Phil.	30	Franco, N.Y.
30 Franco, N.Y.	24	Righthetti, S.F.
24 Righthetti, S.F.	16	Belinda, Pit.
23 Lefferts, S.D.	17	Landrum, Pit.
17 Berenguer, Atl.	17	Landrum, Pit.
17 D. Smith, Chi.	17	Landrum, Pit.
16 2 Players Tied		

STRIKEOUTS
PER INNING

1.45 Dibble, Cin.	1.14	Assenmacher, Chi.
1.14 Assenmacher, Chi.	.96	Gott, L.A.
.96 Gott, L.A.	.95	Williams, Phil.
.95 Williams, Phil.	.94	Schilling, Hou.
.94 Schilling, Hou.	.92	L. Smith, St.L.
.92 L. Smith, St.L.	.91	McElroy, Chi.
.91 McElroy, Chi.	.91	Belinda, Pit.
.91 Belinda, Pit.	.91	Boever, Phil.
.87 Hernandez, Hou.		

(Min. 50 innings pitched)

SAVE
PERCENTAGE*

L. Smith, St.L.	SV	BS	PCT
Dibble, Cin.	47	6	.887
Franco, N.Y.	31	5	.861
Righthetti, S.F.	24	5	.827
Belinda, Pit.	16	4	.800
Landrum, Pit.	17	5	.773
Williams, Phil.	30	9	.769
Lefferts, S.D.	23	7	.766
D. Smith, Chi.	17	6	.739
Assenmacher, Chi.	15	9	.625
Jones, Mon.	13	8	.619
Osuna, Hou.	12	9	.571

(All relievers with min. 20 save opportunities)

FIRST BATTER
EFFICIENCY*

Righthetti, S.F.	H-AB	AVG
Belinda, Pit.	4-56	.071
Williams, Phil.	6-50	.120
Slocumb, Chi.	8-55	.145
Landrum, Pit.	9-58	.155
Oliveras, S.F.	8-48	.167
Corsi, Hou.	7-42	.167
Pena, N.Y.-Atl.	9-53	.170
Berenguer, Atl.	8-47	.170
Stanton, Atl.	12-70	.171

WORST

Schilling, Hou.	19-48	.396
McDowell, Phil.-L.A.	23-65	.354
Lefferts, S.D.	16-48	.333
Agosto, St.L.	19-59	.322
Gott, L.A.	15-47	.319
Lancaster, Chi.	15-48	.313
Burke, Mon.-N.Y.	20-65	.308
Simons, N.Y.	11-36	.306
Terry, St.L.	17-57	.298
Patterson, Pit.	15-51	.294

(Min. 40 first batters faced)

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

*SOURCE: Rolands Relief Man program

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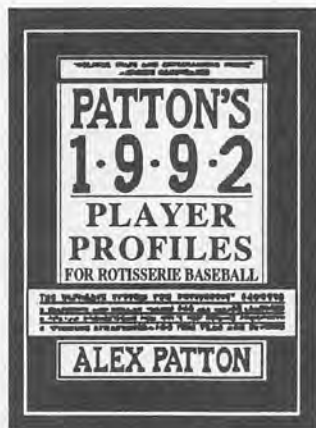
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FIELDING

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CLUB FIELDING

Club	PCT	PO	A	E	TC	DP	PB
Baltimore	.985	4373	1807	91	6271	172	8
Minnesota	.985	4348	1779	95	6222	161	12
California	.984	4325	1858	102	6285	156	23
Detroit	.983	4351	1796	104	6251	171	12
Seattle	.983	4393	1783	110	6286	187	24
Oakland	.982	4333	1608	107	6048	150	8
Chicago	.982	4434	1740	116	6290	151	20
Boston	.981	4319	1768	116	6203	165	11
Milwaukee	.981	4391	1770	118	6279	176	16
Kansas City	.980	4398	1694	125	6217	141	11
Toronto	.980	4388	1686	127	6201	115	21
Texas	.979	4437	1712	134	6283	138	15
New York	.979	4332	1752	133	6217	181	13
Cleveland	.976	4324	1712	149	6185	150	19

FIRST BASEMEN (15)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
McGwire, Oak.	.997	152	1191	101	4	1296	120
O'Brien, Sea.	.997	132	1047	86	3	1136	124
Olerud, Tor.	.996	135	1120	78	5	1203	77
Mattling, N.Y.	.996	127	1119	77	5	1201	135
Benzinger, K.C.	.996	75	651	38	3	692	57
Thomas, Chi.	.996	56	459	27	2	488	43
Joyner, Cal.	.994	141	1335	98	8	1441	124
Hrbek, Min.	.994	128	1138	95	8	1241	110
Fielder, Det.	.993	122	1055	83	8	1146	110
Quintana, Bos.	.993	138	1026	101	8	1135	101
Palmeiro, Tex.	.992	157	1305	96	12	1413	119
Stubbs, Mil.	.991	92	824	82	8	914	78
Pasqua, Chi.	.991	83	511	43	5	559	45
Milligan, Bal.	.990	106	929	81	10	1020	92
Jacoby, Cle.-Oak.	.989	58	404	35	5	444	30

SECOND BASEMEN (18)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Whitaker, Det.	.994	135	255	361	4	620	91
Fletcher, Chi.	.992	86	177	191	3	371	49
Sax, N.Y.	.990	149	274	443	7	724	107
Gallego, Oak.	.989	135	243	370	7	620	69
Ripken, Bal.	.986	103	201	284	7	492	75
Reed, Bos.	.982	152	312	444	14	770	109
Alomar, Tor.	.981	160	333	447	15	795	79
Sojo, Chi.	.981	107	228	326	11	565	78
Franco, Tex.	.979	146	294	372	14	680	80
Reynolds, Sea.	.978	159	348	463	18	829	133
Gantner, Mil.	.977	59	109	190	7	306	31
Knoblauch, Min.	.975	148	249	460	18	727	94
Shumper, K.C.	.975	144	249	368	16	633	81
Bell, Bal.	.973	77	104	189	8	301	39
Baerga, Cle.	.971	75	163	238	12	413	59
Cora, Chi.	.970	80	103	184	9	296	33
Randolph, Mil.	.969	121	237	378	20	635	96
Lewis, Cle.	.966	50	87	140	8	235	29

THIRD BASEMEN (20)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Buechele, Tex.	.991	111	87	239	3	329	20
Jacoby, Cle.-Oak.	.987	67	49	101	2	152	12
Pecota, K.C.	.983	102	69	158	4	231	14
Gantner, Mil.	.976	90	51	155	5	211	15
Gomez, Bal.	.972	105	62	184	7	253	20
Boggs, Bos.	.968	140	89	276	12	377	34
Gaetti, Cal.	.965	152	111	353	17	481	39
Pagliarulo, Min.	.965	118	56	248	11	315	30
Martinez, Sea.	.962	144	84	299	15	398	25
Gruber, Tor.	.962	111	97	231	13	341	16
Ventura, Chi.	.959	151	134	287	18	439	29
Leius, Min.	.953	79	41	100	7	148	8
Law, Oak.	.951	67	36	62	5	103	7
Fryman, Det.	.946	86	45	147	11	203	13
Baerga, Cle.	.944	89	54	183	14	251	14
Palmer, Tex.	.944	50	27	74	6	107	5
Seltzer, K.C.	.940	68	45	127	11	183	8
Riles, Oak.	.939	69	54	101	10	165	14
Velarde, N.Y.	.935	50	31	85	8	124	8
Kelly, N.Y.	.926	80	43	157	16	216	14

SHORTSTOPS (20)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Newman, Min.	.987	55	63	90	2	155	23
Ripken, Bal.	.986	162	267	528	11	806	114

Gagne, Min.	.984	137	181	377	9	567	69
Vizquel, Sea.	.980	138	224	422	13	659	105
Fermin, Cle.	.980	129	214	372	12	598	74
Trammell, Det.	.979	92	131	296	9	436	60
Schofield, Cal.	.975	133	186	398	15	599	83
Bordick, Oak.	.972	84	137	209	10	356	44
Guillen, Chi.	.970	149	249	439	21	709	88
Spier, Mil.	.970	128	201	345	17	563	93
Espinoza, N.Y.	.969	147	223	438	21	682	113
Sveum, Mil.	.968	51	56	125	6	187	24
Lee, Tor.	.967	138	194	360	19	573	52
Huson, Tex.	.965	116	141	267	15	423	42
Fryman, Det.	.963	71	108	207	12	327	48
Howard, K.C.	.962	63	93	188	11	292	30
Diaz, Tex.	.962	65	68	110	7	185	25
Rivera, Bos.	.959	129	180	386	24	590	87
Stillwell, K.C.	.959	118	163	263	18	444	66
Gallego, Oak.	.959	55	40	76	5	121	21

OUTFIELDERS (59)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC
Barfield, N.Y.	1.000	81	178	10	0	188
Gallagher, Cal.	1.000	87	180	8	0	188
White, Tor.	.998	156	439	8	1	448
Henderson, Oak.	.997	140	362	10	1	373
Orsula, Bal.	.997	132	273	22	1	296
Hamilton, Mil.	.996	117	234	3	1	238
Johnson, Chi.	.995	158	425	11	2	438
Vaughn, Mil.	.994	135	315	5	2	322
Yount, Mil.	.994	117	315	1	2	318
Devereaux, Bal.	.993	149	399	10	3	412
McRae, K.C.	.993	150	405	2	3	410
Burks, Bos.	.993	126	283	2	2	287
Phillips, Det.	.992	56	114	3	1	118
Raines, Chi.	.990	133	273	12	3	288
Winfield, Cal.	.990	115	198	7	2	207
Griffey Jr., Sea.	.989	152	360	15	4	379
Greenwell, Bos.	.989	143	263	9	3	275
Brunansky, Chi.	.989	137	265	5	3	273
Gladden, Min.	.988	126	240	4	3	247
Huff, Cle.-Chi.	.988	96	167	4	2	173
Pasqua, Chi.	.988	59	76	3	1	80
Hall, N.Y.	.987	120	221	8	3	232
Cuyler, Det.	.986	151	411	7	6	424
Kelly, N.Y.	.986	125	268	8	4	280
Maldonado, Mil.-Tor.	.986	76	139	2	2	143
Puckett, Min.	.985	152	373	13	6	392
Evans, Bal.	.984	67	116	6	2	124
Wilson, Oak.	.983	87	176	2	3	181
Martinez, Bal.	.982	54	108	4	2	114
Gonzalez, Tex.	.981	136	310	6	6	322
Buhner, Sea.	.981	131	244	15	5	264
Polonia, Cal.	.981	143	246	9	5	260
Anderson, Bal.	.981	101	150	3	3	156
Cotto, Sea.	.981	56	104	2	2	108
Briley, Sea.	.980	125	187	5	4	196

Sierra, Tex.	.979	161	305	15	7	327
Williams, N.Y.	.979	85	230	3	5	238
Deer, Det.	.978	132	310	8	7	325
Mack, Min.	.977	140	290	6	7	303
Pettis, Tex.	.977	126	248	4	6	258
Felix, Cal.	.977	65	126	1	3	130
Bichette, Mil.	.976	127	270	14	7	291
Gibson, K.C.	.976	94	162	3	4	169
Whiten, Tor.-Cle.	.975	109	256	13	7	276
Carter, Tor.	.974	151	283	13	8	304
Sosa, Chi.	.973	111	214	6	6	226
Eisenreich, K.C.	.973	105	143	1	4	148
Incaviglia, Det.	.973	54	106	4	3	113
Cole, Cle.	.970	107	256	6	8	270
Henderson, Oak.	.970	119	249	10	8	267
Thurman, K.C.	.970	72	129	2	4	135
Meulens, N.Y.	.967	73	144	4	5	153
Venable, Cal.	.967	65	86	3	3	92
Canseco, Oak.	.965	131	245	5	9	259
Tartabull, K.C.	.965	124	190	4	7	201
Newson, Chi.	.962	50	48	3	2	53
Moseby, Det.	.955	64	126	1	6	133
Belle, Cle.	.952	89	170	8	9	187
Reimer, Tex.	.948	66	110	0	6	116

CATCHERS (26)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	PB
Holles, Bal.	.998	89	433	43	1	477	3
Melvin, Bal.	.998	72	383	31	1	415	3
Parrish, Cal.	.997	111	658	57	2	717	19
Pena, Bos.	.995	140	864	60	5	929	5
Surhoff, Mil.	.995	127	660	68	4	732	11
Ortiz, Min.	.995	60	203	17	1	221	3
Fisk, Chi.	.993	106	535	55	4	594	11
Borders, Tor.	.993	102	505	48	4	557	12
MacFarlane, K.C.	.993	69	391	28	3	422	4
Bradley, Sea.	.993	65	285	16	2	303	3
Dempsey, Mil.	.993	56	246	23	2	271	5
Nokes, N.Y.	.992	130	690	48	6	744	11
Valle, Sea.	.992	129	669	52	6	727	15
Skinner, Cle.	.991	99	504	38	5	547	6
Tuttleton, Det.	.990	125	558	55	6	619	9
Geren, N.Y.	.989	63	255	18	3	276	1
Harper, Min.	.988	119	642	33	8	683	9
Karkovice, Chi.	.988	69	309	28	4	341	2
Mayne, K.C.	.987	80	425	38	6	469	2
Rodriguez, Tex.	.983	88	517	62	10	589	8
Quirk, Oak.	.982	54	293	32	6	331	2
Steinbach, Oak.	.980	117	594	48	13	655	6
Stanley, Tex.	.980	58	239	10	5	254	3
Myers, Tor.	.979	104	484	37	11	532	9
Allanson, Det.	.979	56	212	22	5	239	3
Petralli, Tex.	.972	66	293	20	9	322	3

All positions minimum 50 games
BOLD = Gold Glove winner

OUTFIELD ARMS*

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

CLUB FIELDING

Club	PCT	PO	A	E	TC	DP	PB
St. Louis	.982	4306	1689	107	6102	133	8
San Francisco	.982	4326	1753	109	6188	151	9
Chicago	.982	4370	1830	113	6313	120	19
San Diego	.982	4358	1731	113	6202	130	9
Pittsburgh	.981	4370	1846	120	6336	134	9
Philadelphia	.981	4389	1623	119	6131	111	9
Los Angeles	.980	4374	1795	123	6292	126	8
Cincinnati	.979	4320	1615	125	6060	131	20
Montreal	.979	4321	1796	133	6250	128	22
Atlanta	.978	4358	1834	138	6330	122	14
New York	.977	4312	1766	143	6221	112	12
Houston	.974	4359	1617	161	6137	129	16

FIRST BASEMEN (15)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Clark, S.F.	.997	144	1273	110	4	1387	115
Kruk, Phil.	.997	102	735	49	2	786	54
Magadan, N.Y.	.996	122	1035	90	5	1130	73
Bream, Atl.	.996	85	668	50	3	721	53
Grace, Chi.	.995	160	1520	167	8	1695	106
Murray, L.A.	.995	149	1327	128	7	1462	96
Morris, Cin.	.992	128	979	100	9	1088	87
Bagwell, Hou.	.991	155	1270	106	12	1388	97
Galarraga, Mon.	.991	105	887	80	9	976	68
McGriff, S.D.	.990	153	1370	87	14	1471	111
Perry, St.L.	.989	61	407	28	5	440	30
Mercad, Pit.	.988	105	911	60	12	983	64
Hunter, Atl.	.988	85	622	46	8	676	42
Jordan, Phil.	.987	72	626	37	9	672	37
Guerrero, St.L.	.985	112	953	66	16	1035	73

SECOND BASEMEN (19)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Herr, N.Y.-S.F.	1.000	72	114	148	0	262	33
Sandberg, Chi.	.995	157	267	515	4	786	66
Lind, Pit.	.989	149	349	438	9	796	79
Ready, Phil.	.989	66	127	145	3	275	22
Quendo, St.L.	.988	118	244	346	7	597	60
Teufel, N.Y.-S.D.	.987	66	102	124	3	229	22
Morandini, Phil.	.986	97	183	254	6	443	45
Thompson, S.F.	.985	144	320	402	11	733	98
Candaele, Hou.	.982	109	197	301	9	507	52
Jefferies, N.Y.	.982	77	144	177	6	327	15
Doran, Cin.	.981	88	153	208	7	368	47
Samuel, L.A.	.978	152	300	442	17	759	73
Lemke, Atl.	.978	110	159	205	8	372	39
Roberts, S.D.	.978	68	128	185	7	320	35
Pena, St.L.	.976	83	95	146	6	247	28
Duncan, Cin.	.974	62	116	144	7	267	29
Miller, N.Y.	.972	60	129	148	8	285	28
DeShields, Mon.	.962	148	285	405	27	717	72
Treadway, Atl.	.960	93	155	206	15	376	33

THIRD BASEMEN (18)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Howell, S.D.	.985	54	33	98	2	133	7
Sharperson, L.A.	.981	68	30	71	2	103	5
Wallach, Mon.	.968	149	107	310	14	431	27
Sabo, Cin.	.966	151	86	255	12	353	24
Williams, S.F.	.964	155	131	293	16	440	30
Hayes, Phil.	.958	138	85	237	14	336	25
Salazar, Chi.	.956	86	46	151	9	206	5
Coolbaugh, S.D.	.952	54	32	108	7	147	8
Pendleton, Atl.	.950	148	108	349	24	481	31
Caminiti, Hou.	.948	152	129	293	23	445	29
Teufel, N.Y.-S.D.	.947	53	29	79	6	114	4
Vizcaino, Chi.	.947	57	10	26	2	38	1
Zeile, St.L.	.943	154	124	290	25	439	18
Harris, L.A.	.943	113	77	155	14	246	16
Bonilla, Pit.	.932	67	43	134	13	190	13
Walker, Cin.	.929	57	22	69	7	98	7
Johnson, N.Y.	.927	104	55	173	18	246	11
Jefferies, N.Y.	.916	51	26	94	11	131	6

SHORTSTOPS (17)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
Smith, St.L.	.987	150	244	387	8	639	79
Owen, Mon.	.986	133	189	376	8	573	64
Benjamin, S.F.	.984	51	64	123	3	190	23

Larkin, Cin.	.976	119	226	372	15	613	65
Fernandez, S.D.	.972	145	247	440	20	707	78
Elster, N.Y.	.970	107	149	299	14	462	39
Thon, Phil.	.969	146	234	412	21	667	65
Bell, Pit.	.968	156	239	491	24	754	78
Dunston, Chi.	.968	142	261	383	21	665	69
Belliard, Atl.	.967	145	168	361	18	547	53
Uribe, S.F.	.966	87	98	218	11	327	35
Griffin, L.A.	.961	109	186	349	22	557	45
Anderson, S.F.	.956	63	68	107	8	183	25
Blauser, Atl.	.948	85	75	125	11	211	21
Offerman, L.A.	.945	58	50	121	10	181	17
Yelding, Hou.	.939	72	113	166	18	297	31
Cedeno, Hou.	.930	66	88	151	18	257	36

OUTFIELDERS (56)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC
Butler, L.A.	1.000	161	372	8	0	380
Lewis, S.F.	1.000	68	159	2	0	161
Young, Hou.	1.000	84	96	4	0	100
Davidson, Hou.	1.000	63	71	1	0	72
Van Slyke, Pit.	.996	135	273	8	1	282
Howard, S.D.	.995	86	182	4	1	187
O'Neill, Cin.	.994	150	301	13	2	316
Gilkey, St.L.	.994	74	164	6	1	171
Clark, S.D.	.994	96	160	5	1	166
McReynolds, N.Y.	.993	141	281	9	2	292
Jackson, S.D.	.992	98	243	2	2	247
Kruk, Phil.	.992	52	113	4	1	118
Bonds, Pit.	.991	150	321	13	3	337
Walker, Mon.	.991	102	223	6	2	231
Thompson, St.L.	.991	91	207	8	2	217
Gwynn, S.D.	.990	134	291	8	3	302
Jose, St.L.	.990	153	268	15	3	286
Hayes, Phil.	.990	72	202	3	2	207
Bonilla, Pit.	.989	104	176	8	2	186
Varsho, Pit.	.989	54	84	2	1	87
Dawson, Chi.	.988	137	243	7	3	253
Nixon, Atl.	.987	115	218	6	3	227
Walker, Chi.	.987	53	73	4	1	78
Javier, L.A.	.986	69	70	1	1	72
Finley, Hou.	.985	153	323	13	5	341
Chamberlain, Phil.	.985	98	199	4	3	206
Davis, Cin.	.985	81	190	5	3	198
Felder, S.F.	.985	107	192	3	3	198
Dascenzo, Chi.	.985	86	134	0	2	136
Lankford, St.L.	.984	149	367	7	6	380
Grissom, Mon.	.984	138	350	15	6	371
Gonzalez, Hou.	.984	133	294	6	5	305
Gant, Atl.	.983	148	338	7	6	351
Murphy, Phil.	.983	147	287	6	5	298
Walton, Chi.	.983	101	170	2	3	175
Martinez, Mon.	.982	112	213	10	4	227
Hatcher, Cin.	.981	121	248	4	5	257
Boston, N.Y.	.981	115	156	2	3	161
Hudler, St.L.	.981	58	97	4	2	103
Daniels, L.A.	.979	132	220	9	5	234

OUTFIELD ARMS*

LEFTFIELDERS	OPP	EB	PCT
Bonds, Pit.	116	19	16.4
Hatcher, Cin.	69	21	30.4
Gonzalez, Hou.	108	35	32.4
Clark, S.D.	55	18	32.7
Major league average			34.0
CENTERFIELDERS	OPP	EB	PCT
Van Slyke, Pit.	146	65	44.5
Finley, Hou.	135	65	48.1
Jackson, S.D.	58	29	50.0
Grissom, Mon.	127	64	50.4
Major league average			54.9
RIGHTFIELDERS	OPP	EB	PCT
O'Neill, Cin.	118	48	40.7
Deer, Det.	168	71	42.3
Dawson, Chi.	118	54	45.8
Gwynn, S.D.	123	61	49.6
Major league average			49.0

OPP = baserunners opportunities to take an extra base when the ball is hit in the fielder's area i.e. first to third on a single.
EB = extra bases taken.

CATCHERS (21)

Player, Club	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	PB
LaValliere, Pit.	.998	105	565	46	1	612	5
Olson, Atl.	.995	127	721	48	4	773	5
Fitzgerald, Mon.	.994	54	306	24	2	332	2
Wilkins, Chi.	.993	82	373	42	3	418	6
Lake, Phil.	.993	58	277	25	2	304	5
Pagnozzi, St.L.	.991	139	673	81	7	761	5
Reed, Cin.	.991	89	527	29	5	561	7
O'Brien, N.Y.	.991	67	396	37	4	437	2
Scioscia, L.A.	.990	115	677	51	7	735	3
Biggio, Hou.	.990	139	889	64	10	963	13
Carter, L.A.	.988	68	355	45	5	405	4
Manwaring, S.F.	.988	67	315	28	4	347	0
Cerone, N.Y.	.987	81	424	36	6	466	6
Slaughter, Pit.	.987	69	338	31	5	374	3
Santiago, S.D.	.985	151	830	100	14	944	8
Daulton, Phil.	.985	88	493	33	8	534	2
Decker, S.F.	.984	78	385	41	7	433	7
Oliver, Cin.	.980	90	496	40	11	547	10
Villanueva, Chi.	.979	55	259	26	6	291	4
Kennedy, S.F.	.978	58	237	36	6	279	2
Reyes, Mon.	.975	80	375	61	11	447	10

All positions minimum 50 games
BOLD = Gold Glove winner

CATCHERS THROWING*

CATCHER	SB	CS	%CS
Reyes, Mon.	38	43	.531
Cerone, N.Y.	39	32	.451
Pagnozzi, St.L.	86	70	.449
Kennedy, S.F.	44	35	.443
Wilkins, Chi.	46	30	.395
Santiago, S.D.	93	57	.380
Decker, S.F.	49	28	.364
Reed, Cin.	57	28	.329
Carter, L.A.	59	28	.322
O'Brien, N.Y.	55	26	.321
LaValliere, Pit.	90	39	.302
Oliver, Cin.	70	28	.286
Olson, Atl.	95	37	.280
Scioscia, L.A.	82	30	.268
Biggio, Hou.	126	46	.267
Fitzgerald, Mon.	61	21	.256
Daulton, Phil.	84	18	.176

(Minimum 70 SB attempts)

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

TEAM STATISTICS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

VS. EASTERN DIVISION

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Minnesota	55	29	.655
Toronto	46	32	.590
Milwaukee	45	33	.577
Seattle	48	36	.571
Kansas City	46	38	.548
Chicago	45	39	.536
Boston	41	37	.526
California	44	40	.524
Oakland	44	40	.524
New York	40	38	.513
Detroit	39	39	.500
Texas	42	42	.500
Baltimore	33	45	.423
Cleveland	29	49	.372

VS. WESTERN DIVISION

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Texas	43	35	.551
Chicago	42	36	.538
Detroit	45	39	.536
Toronto	45	39	.536
Minnesota	40	38	.513
Oakland	40	38	.513
Boston	43	41	.512
California	37	41	.474
Kansas City	36	42	.462
Milwaukee	38	46	.452
Seattle	35	43	.449
Baltimore	34	50	.405
New York	31	53	.369
Cleveland	28	56	.333

VS. LEFTHANDED STARTERS

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Minnesota	26	16	.619
Oakland	26	16	.619
Toronto	28	19	.596
California	25	18	.581
Texas	24	19	.558
Boston	24	20	.545
Detroit	23	21	.523
New York	27	28	.491
Chicago	21	27	.438
Milwaukee	20	26	.435
Baltimore	18	24	.429
Seattle	18	24	.429
Kansas City	20	29	.408
Cleveland	14	30	.318

VS. RIGHTHANDED STARTERS

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Chicago	66	48	.579
Minnesota	69	51	.575
Kansas City	62	51	.549
Toronto	63	52	.548
Milwaukee	63	53	.543
Seattle	65	55	.542
Detroit	61	57	.517
Texas	61	58	.513
Boston	60	58	.508
Oakland	58	62	.483
California	56	63	.471
New York	44	63	.411
Baltimore	49	71	.408
Cleveland	43	75	.364

GRASS FIELDS (810)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Minnesota	35	27	.565
Oakland	76	70	.519
Milwaukee	75	62	.547
Detroit	74	63	.540
Chicago	74	64	.536
Toronto	33	30	.524
Texas	71	66	.518
Seattle	32	30	.516
Boston	70	67	.511
Kansas City	31	31	.500
California	64	71	.474
New York	64	74	.464
Baltimore	58	80	.420
Cleveland	53	85	.384

ARTIFICIAL SURFACES (324)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
California	17	10	.630
Minnesota	60	40	.600
Toronto	58	41	.586
Boston	14	11	.560
Texas	14	11	.560
Chicago	13	11	.542
Kansas City	51	49	.510
Seattle	51	49	.510
Detroit	10	15	.400
Baltimore	9	15	.375
Milwaukee	8	17	.320
Oakland	8	18	.308
New York	7	17	.292
Cleveland	4	20	.167

DAY GAMES (323)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Oakland	32	22	.593
Milwaukee	26	19	.578
Texas	17	13	.567
Minnesota	26	20	.565
California	22	18	.550
Toronto	28	24	.538
Chicago	23	20	.535
Detroit	25	26	.490
Kansas City	22	24	.478
New York	24	27	.471
Boston	25	29	.463
Cleveland	19	29	.396
Seattle	17	26	.395
Baltimore	17	26	.395

NIGHT GAMES (811)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Minnesota	69	47	.595
Toronto	63	47	.573
Seattle	66	53	.555
Boston	59	49	.546
Chicago	64	55	.538
Detroit	59	52	.532
Kansas City	60	56	.517
Texas	68	64	.515
Milwaukee	57	60	.487
California	59	63	.484
Oakland	52	56	.481
New York	47	64	.423
Baltimore	50	69	.420
Cleveland	38	76	.333

ONE-RUN DECISIONS (324)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Kansas City	24	17	.585
Toronto	28	20	.583
Detroit	24	18	.571
Oakland	22	18	.550
Minnesota	22	18	.550
Chicago	32	27	.542
California	23	21	.523
Boston	23	21	.523
Seattle	27	25	.519
New York	20	21	.488
Texas	21	23	.477
Cleveland	21	30	.412
Milwaukee	19	30	.388
Baltimore	18	35	.340

EXTRA-INNING GAMES (117)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Detroit	12	4	.750
Oakland	9	4	.692
Chicago	15	9	.625
Texas	14	10	.583
Kansas City	11	8	.579
Minnesota	9	7	.563
New York	8	7	.533
Seattle	9	10	.474
Toronto	8	10	.444
Boston	4	5	.444
Baltimore	6	12	.333
Cleveland	5	10	.333
Milwaukee	5	12	.294
California	2	9	.182

WINS BY STARTERS*

CLUB	BY TEAM	BY STARTERS	PCT
California	81	70	.864
Boston	84	65	.773
Kansas City	82	63	.768
Milwaukee	83	62	.747
Minnesota	95	71	.747
Cleveland	57	42	.737
Toronto	91	67	.736
Seattle	83	60	.723
Detroit	84	60	.714
Oakland	84	56	.667
New York	71	45	.634
Baltimore	67	42	.627
Chicago	87	54	.621
Texas	85	52	.612

QUALITY STARTS*

CLUB	G	QS	PCT
California	162	97	.599
Toronto	162	92	.568
Minnesota	162	89	.549
Cleveland	162	86	.531
Texas	162	83	.512
Seattle	162	82	.506
Kansas City	162	81	.500
Chicago	162	80	.494
Oakland	162	79	.488
Detroit	162	78	.481
Boston	162	78	.481
Milwaukee	162	74	.457
Baltimore	162	66	.407
New York	162	62	.383

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

CLUB BATTING

CLUB	AVG	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GIDP	LOB	SLG	OBP
Minnesota	.280	5556	776	1557	2331	270	42	140	733	44	49	40	526	38	747	107	68	157	1137	.420	.344
Milwaukee	.271	5611	799	1523	2224	247	53	116	750	52	66	23	556	48	802	106	68	137	1122	.396	.336
Texas	.270	5703	829	1539	2420	288	31	177	774	59	41	42	596	51	1039	102	50	128	1187	.424	.341
Boston	.269	5530	731	1486	2219	305	25	126	691	50	51	32	593	49	820	59	39	143	1216	.401	.340
Kansas City	.264	5584	727	1475	2198	290	41	117	689	53	47	35	523	47	969	119	68	126	1117	.394	.328
Chicago	.262	5594	758	1464	2185	226	39	139	722	76	41	37	610	45	896	134	74	132	1183	.391	.336
Toronto	.257	5489	684	1412	2196	295	45	133	649	56	65	58	499	49	1043	148	53	108	1134	.400	.322
New York	.256	5541	674	1418	2146	249	19	147	630	37	50	39	473	38	861	109	36	125	1101	.387	.316
California	.255	5470	653	1396	2044	245	29	115	607	63	31	38	448	28	928	94	56	114	1073	.374	.314
Seattle	.255	5494	702	1400	2104	268	29	126	665	55	62	37	588	57	811	97	44	139	1150	.383	.328
Cleveland	.254	5470	576	1390	1915	236	26	79	546	62	46	43	449	24	888	84	58	146	1106	.350	.313
Baltimore	.254	5604	686	1421	2245	256	29	170	660	47	45	33	528	33	974	50	33	147	1162	.401	.319
Oakland	.248	5410	760	1342	2103	246	19	159	716	41	49	50	642	56	981	151	64	131	1105	.389	.331
Detroit	.247	5547	817	1372	2310	259	26	209	778	38	44	31	699	40	1185	109	47	90	1194	.416	.333
TOTALS	.260	77603	10172	20195	30640	3680	453	1953	9610	733	687	538	7730	603	12944	1469	758	1823	15987	.395	.329

CLUB PITCHING

CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	CG	SHO	REL	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OBA
Toronto	91	71	3.50	162	10	16	347	60	1462.2	1301	622	569	121	43	523	41	971	55	8	.238
California	81	81	3.69	162	18	10	310	50	1441.2	1351	649	591	141	38	543	29	990	49	11	.250
Minnesota	95	67	3.69	162	21	12	291	53	1449.1	1402	652	595	139	27	488	39	876	57	5	.255
Seattle	83	79	3.79	162	10	13	383	48	1464.1	1387	674	616	136	47	628	50	1003	82	7	.253
Chicago	87	75	3.79	162	28	8	338	40	1478.0	1302	681	622	154	31	601	25	923	44	6	.239
Kansas City	82	80	3.92	162	17	12	295	41	1466.0	1473	722	639	105	43	529	44	1004	47	5	.261
Boston	84	78	4.01	162	15	13	328	45	1439.2	1405	712	642	147	31	530	59	999	42	4	.257
Milwaukee	83	79	4.14	162	23	11	341	41	1463.2	1498	744	674	147	45	527	31	859	53	5	.266
Cleveland	57	105	4.23	162	22	8	289	33	1441.1	1551	759	678	110	39	441	61	862	48	6	.276
New York	71	91	4.42	162	3	11	377	37	1444.0	1510	777	709	152	42	506	29	936	53	14	.271
Texas	85	77	4.47	162	9	10	386	41	1479.0	1486	814	734	151	45	662	37	1022	77	12	.262
Detroit	84	78	4.51	162	18	8	326	38	1450.1	1570	794	726	148	24	593	88	739	50	5	.281
Oakland	84	78	4.57	162	14	10	397	49	1444.1	1425	776	734	155	55	655	30	892	60	7	.260
Baltimore	67	95	4.59	162	8	8	372	42	1457.2	1534	796	743	147	28	504	40	868	49	8	.273
TOTALS	1134	1134	4.09	1134	216	150	4780	618	20382.0	20195	10172	9272	1953	538	7730	603	12944	766	103	260

NATIONAL LEAGUE

VS. EASTERN DIVISION

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	58	32	.644
Atlanta	43	29	.597
Los Angeles	42	30	.583
St. Louis	49	41	.544
Chicago	46	42	.523
San Diego	36	36	.500
New York	44	45	.494
Philadelphia	43	47	.478
Cincinnati	34	38	.472
San Francisco	32	40	.444
Houston	28	44	.389
Montreal	28	61	.315

VS. WESTERN DIVISION

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Montreal	43	29	.597
Atlanta	51	39	.567
Los Angeles	51	39	.567
Pittsburgh	40	32	.556
San Diego	48	42	.533
Philadelphia	35	37	.486
St. Louis	35	37	.486
San Francisco	43	47	.478
New York	33	39	.458
Cincinnati	40	50	.444
Chicago	31	41	.431
Houston	37	53	.411

VS. LEFTHANDED STARTERS

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	34	19	.642
Atlanta	28	16	.636
Los Angeles	38	30	.559
Cincinnati	30	25	.545
New York	32	32	.500
St. Louis	35	37	.486
Chicago	31	33	.484
Philadelphia	30	32	.484
San Francisco	23	25	.479
San Diego	27	30	.474
Montreal	21	32	.396
Houston	23	39	.371

VS. RIGHTHANDED STARTERS

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	64	45	.587
Los Angeles	55	39	.585
Atlanta	66	52	.559
St. Louis	49	41	.544
San Diego	57	48	.543
Philadelphia	48	52	.480
Chicago	46	50	.479
New York	45	52	.464
Montreal	50	58	.463
San Francisco	52	62	.456
Houston	42	58	.420
Cincinnati	44	63	.411

GRASS FIELDS (489)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Los Angeles	75	45	.625
Atlanta	70	50	.583
San Diego	62	58	.517
Chicago	59	56	.513
San Francisco	58	62	.483
Pittsburgh	20	22	.476
New York	54	61	.470
Cincinnati	22	26	.458
Montreal	19	27	.413
Philadelphia	17	25	.405
Houston	18	30	.375
St. Louis	15	27	.357

ARTIFICIAL SURFACES (481)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	78	42	.650
St. Louis	69	51	.575
Atlanta	24	18	.571
San Diego	22	20	.524
Philadelphia	61	59	.508
New York	23	23	.500
Cincinnati	52	62	.456
Montreal	52	63	.452
Los Angeles	18	24	.429
Houston	47	67	.412
San Francisco	17	25	.405
Chicago	18	27	.400

DAY GAMES (293)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	25	18	.581
San Diego	26	20	.565
San Francisco	34	27	.557
Los Angeles	24	21	.533
Atlanta	21	19	.525
Chicago	43	39	.524
St. Louis	24	22	.522
Cincinnati	20	21	.488
New York	24	29	.453
Philadelphia	20	26	.435
Houston	15	23	.395
Montreal	17	28	.378

NIGHT GAMES (677)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
Pittsburgh	73	46	.613
Atlanta	73	49	.598
Los Angeles	69	48	.590
St. Louis	60	56	.517
San Diego	58	58	.500
Philadelphia	58	58	.500
New York	53	55	.491
Montreal	54	62	.466
Cincinnati	54	67	.446
Chicago	34	44	.436
San Francisco	41	60	.406
Houston	50	74	.403

ONE-RUN DECISIONS (322)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
San Diego	27	16	.628
St. Louis	37	22	.627
Philadelphia	36	27	.571
Pittsburgh	27	22	.551
Chicago	33	29	.532
Los Angeles	29	27	.518
Atlanta	22	26	.458
Cincinnati	21	25	.457
Montreal	28	39	.418
San Francisco	23	32	.418
New York	20	29	.408
Houston	19	28	.404

EXTRA-INNING GAMES (103)

CLUB	WON	LOST	PCT
St. Louis	10	5	.667
Philadelphia	16	9	.640
Atlanta	8	6	.571
Chicago	12	11	.522
San Diego	8	8	.500
New York	8	8	.500
Pittsburgh	6	6	.500
Montreal	9	10	.474
Los Angeles	9	11	.450
San Francisco	5	8	.385
Cincinnati	5	8	.385
Houston	7	13	.350

WINS BY STARTERS*

CLUB	BY TEAM	BY STARTERS	PCT
Cincinnati	74	59	.797
Atlanta	94	72	.766
San Diego	84	65	.774
New York	77	57	.740
San Francisco	75	54	.720
Los Angeles	93	65	.699
Houston	65	45	.692
Montreal	71	49	.690
Pittsburgh	98	67	.684
Philadelphia	78	51	.654
St. Louis	84	54	.643
Chicago	77	48	.636

QUALITY STARTS*

CLUB	G	QS	PCT
Los Angeles	162	109	.673
San Diego	162	99	.611
New York	161	94	.584
Atlanta	162	94	.580
St. Louis	162	94	.580
Cincinnati	162	93	.574
Pittsburgh	162	90	.555
Houston	162	88	.543
Montreal	161	87	.540
San Francisco	162	83	.512
Philadelphia	162	79	.488
Chicago	160	75	.469

(Quality Start: 6+ innings pitched; 3 or fewer earned runs)

*SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

CLUB BATTING

CLUB	AVG	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	GIDP	LOB	SLG	OBP
Pittsburgh	.263	5449	768	1433	2170	259	50	126	725	99	66	35	620	62	901	124	46	111	1188	.398	.338
Cincinnati	.258	5501	689	1419	2215	250	27	164	654	72	41	32	488	54	1006	124	56	85	1110	.403	.320
Atlanta	.258	5456	749	1407	2145	255	30	141	704	86	45	32	563	55	906	165	76	104	1111	.393	.328
St. Louis	.255	5362	651	1366	1915	239	53	68	599	58	47	21	532	48	857	202	110	94	1072	.357	.322
Chicago	.253	5522	695	1395	2156	232	26	159	654	75	55	36	442	41	879	123	64	87	1074	.390	.309
Los Angeles	.253	5408	665	1366	1939	191	29	108	605	94	46	28	583	50	957	126	68	109	1151	.359	.326
San Francisco	.246	5463	649	1345	2079	215	48	141	605	90	33	40	471	59	973	95	57	91	1110	.381	.309
Montreal	.246	5412	579	1329	1934	236	42	95	536	64	47	28	484	51	1056	221	100	97	1074	.357	.308
Houston	.244	5504	605	1345	1908	240	43	79	570	63	43	35	502	45	1027	125	68	87	1131	.347	.309
San Diego	.244	5408	636	1321	1960	204	36	121	591	78	38	32	501	60	1069	101	64	122	1080	.362	.310
New York	.244	5359	640	1305	1954	250	24	117	605	60	52	27	578	53	789	153	70	97	1114	.365	.317
Philadelphia	.241	5521	629	1332	1979	248	33	111	590	52	49	21	490	48	1026	92	30	114	1108	.358	.303
TOTALS	.250	65365	7955	16363	24354	2819	441	1430	7438	891	562	367	6254	626	11446	1651	809	1198	13323	.373	.317

CLUB PITCHING

CLUB	W	L	ERA	G	CG	SHO	REL	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	SO	WP	BK	OBA
Los Angeles	93	69	3.06	162	15	14	367	40	1458.0	1312	565	496	96	28	500	77	1028	48	12	.241
Pittsburgh	98	64	3.44	162	18	11	353	51	1456.2	1411	632	557	117	30	401	34	919	40	12	.256
Atlanta	94	68	3.49	162	18	7	345	48	1452.2	1304	644	563	118	28	481	39	969	66	13	.240
New York	77	84	3.56	161	12	11	314	39	1437.1	1403	646	568	108	25	410	41	1028	59	14	.257
San Diego	84	78	3.57	162	14	11	334	47	1452.2	1385	646	577	139	13	457	56	921	49	13	.252
Montreal	71	90	3.64	161	12	14	367	39	1440.1	1304	655	583	111	32	584	42	909	51	9	.244
St. Louis	84	78	3.69	162	9	5	369	51	1435.1	1367	648	588	114	47	454	52	822	33	7	.255
Cincinnati	74	88	3.83	162	7	11	354	43	1440.0	1372	691	613	127	28	560	41	997	60	9	.253
Philadelphia	78	84	3.86	162	16	11	321	35	1463.0	1346	680	628	111	43	670	58	988	81	6	.246
Houston	65	97	4.00	162	7	13	365	36	1453.0	1347	717	646	129	29	651	62	1033	46	17	.247
San Francisco	75	87	4.03	162	10	10	334	45	1442.0	1397	697	646	143	36	544	60	905	44	14	.257
Chicago	77	83	4.03	160	12	4	360	40	1456.2	1415	734	653	117	28	542	64	927	48	12	.257
TOTALS	970	970	3.68	970	150	122	4183	514	17387.2	16363	7955	7118	1430	367	6254	626	11446	625	138	.250

MINOR LEAGUES

FULL SEASON TEAM STATISTICS

LONGEST WINNING STREAKS

- 16 Augusta (A-Pirates)
- 16 Modesto (A-A's)
- 13 Clearwater (A-Phillies)

LONGEST LOSING STREAK

- 22 Peninsula (A-Mariners)

HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE

- .303 El Paso (AA-Brewers)
- .298 Colorado Springs (AAA-Indians)
- .294 Albuquerque (AAA-Dodgers)
- .292 Tucson (AAA-Astros)
- .292 Calgary (AAA-Mariners)

LOWEST BATTING AVERAGE

- .217 Winter Haven (A-Red Sox)
- .218 West Palm Beach (A-Expos)
- .220 Savannah (A-Cardinals)
- .227 Baseball City (A-Royals)

MOST HOME RUNS

- 153 Pawtucket (AAA-Red Sox)
- 137 El Paso (AA-Brewers)
- 133 Calgary (AAA-Mariners)
- 122 Oklahoma City (AAA-Rangers)
- 119 Colorado Springs (AAA-Indians)

FEWEST HOME RUNS

- 19 Osceola (A-Astros)
- 20 Baseball City (A-Royals)
- 23 Winter Haven (A-Red Sox)

BEST ERA

- 2.58 St. Lucie (A-Mets)
- 2.67 San Jose (A-Giants)
- 2.70 West Palm Beach (A-Expos)
- 2.75 Clinton (A-Giants)
- 2.89 Sarasota (A-White Sox)

WORST ERA

- 5.15 Las Vegas (AAA-Padres)
- 5.13 Reno (A-Independent)
- 5.08 Calgary (AAA-Mariners)
- 4.90 Midland (AA-Angels)
- 4.88 Vancouver (AAA-White Sox)

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

LONGEST HITTING STREAKS

- 27 Andres Santana (AAA-Giants)
- 22 Darren Lewis (AAA-Giants)
- 22 Tim Lincecum (A-Phillies)
- 21 Dave Jacas (AA-Brewers)
- 21 Eric Karros (AAA-Dodgers)

BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 380 plate appearances)

- .366 Dave Nilsson (AA-AAA-Brewers)
- .364 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- .346 Rich Amaral (AAA-Mariners)
- .346 Derek Bell (AAA-Blue Jays)
- .344 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- .342 Kyle Washington (A-AA-Indians)
- .341 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- .339 Jim Eppard (A-Independent)
- .334 Luis Mercedes (AAA-Orioles)
- .334 Juan Guerrero (AA-Giants)
- .333 Matt Stairs (AA-Expos)
- .332 Dave Patterson (AA-AAA-Giants)
- .329 Patrick Lennon (AAA-Mariners)
- .328 Kiki Hernandez (A-Yankees)
- .328 Kevin Young (AA-AAA-Pirates)

HOME RUNS

- 32 Jay Gainer (A-Padres)
- 31 Jeromy Burnitz (AA-Mets)
- 30 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- 29 Mike Piazza (A-Dodgers)
- 27 Bernardo Brito (AAA-Twins)
- 27 Luis Medina (AAA-Indians)
- 26 Butch Huskey (A-Mets)
- 24 Shon Ashley (AA-Brewers)
- 24 Elvin Paulino (AA-Cubs)
- 23 Tim Salmon (AA-Angels)
- 23 Troy Neel (AA-AAA-A's)

RUNS BATTED IN

- 134 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- 128 Jim Tatum (AA-Brewers)
- 123 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- 120 Jay Gainer (A-Padres)
- 119 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- 109 Ted Wood (AAA-Giants)
- 106 Jim Bishop (A-Independent)
- 101 Eric Karros (AAA-Dodgers)

- 100 Shon Ashley (AA-Brewers)
- 100 Paul Russo (A-Twins)
- 100 Guillermo Velasquez (AA-Padres)
- 99 Butch Huskey (A-Mets)
- 98 Luis Medina (AAA-Indians)
- 98 Chipper Jones (A-Braves)
- 96 Lee Stevens (AAA-Angels)

STOLEN BASES

- 87 Tow Maynard (A-AA-Mariners)
- 81 J.D. Noland (A-Padres)
- 78 Mateo Ozuna (A-Cardinals)
- 71 Eric Young (AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- 69 Jesus Tavarez (A-Mariners)
- 64 Pat Howell (A-AA-Mets)
- 64 Terry Bradshaw (A-Cardinals)
- 63 Scott Bullett (A-Pirates)
- 62 Will Taylor (AAA-Padres)
- 61 Kervin Moore (A-Royals)
- 61 Lee Heath (A-Braves)
- 60 Ray McDavid (A-Padres)

HITS

- 188 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- 168 Kenny Lofton (AAA-Astros)
- 168 Matt Stairs (AA-Expos)
- 168 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- 167 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- 166 Jose Munoz (AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- 162 Jim Olander (AAA-Brewers)
- 162 Rob Kattaroff (AA-Expos)
- 161 Scott Bullett (A-Pirates)
- 160 Juan Guerrero (AA-Giants)
- 159 Todd Haney (AAA-Expos)
- 159 Ted Wood (AAA-Giants)

DOUBLES

- 42 Ruben Amaro (AAA-Angels)
- 41 Rob Maurer (AAA-Rangers)
- 40 Juan Guerrero (AA-Giants)
- 38 Derek Lee (AA-AAA-White Sox)
- 38 Rich Becker (A-Twins)
- 38 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- 38 Ted Wood (AAA-Giants)
- 37 Ken Shamburg (AA-AAA-Orioles)
- 37 Jose Viera (A-Cubs)

TRIPLES

- 17 Kenny Lofton (AAA-Astros)
- 15 Kevin Flora (AA-Angels)
- 14 Glen Murray (A-Expos)
- 13 Nigel Wilson (A-Blue Jays)
- 13 Kyle Washington (A-AA-Indians)
- 13 John Patterson (AA-Giants)

SLUGGING

- .619 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- .593 Luis Medina (AAA-Indians)
- .552 Rick Schu (AAA-Phillies)
- .551 Eric Karros (AAA-Dodgers)
- .548 Tino Martinez (AAA-Mariners)
- .545 Juan Guerrero (AA-Giants)
- .540 Mike Piazza (A-Dodgers)
- .539 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- .534 Rob Maurer (AAA-Rangers)
- .532 Derek Bell (AAA-Blue Jays)
- .531 Shon Ashley (AA-Brewers)
- .531 Patrick Lennon (AAA-Mariners)
- .530 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- .529 Geronimo Berroa (AAA-Indians)
- .529 Dave Nilsson (AA-AAA-Brewers)

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE

- .456 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- .453 Jim Eppard (A-Independent)
- .447 Dave Patterson (AA-AAA-Giants)
- .441 Scott Meadows (AA-AAA-Orioles)
- .438 Don Barbara (A-AA-Angels)
- .438 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- .437 Dave Nilsson (AA-AAA-Brewers)
- .436 Jeff McNeely (A-Red Sox)
- .436 Kyle Washington (A-AA-Indians)
- .436 Reggie Williams (A-AA-Angels)
- .435 Luis Mercedes (AAA-Orioles)
- .433 Rich Amaral (AAA-Mariners)
- .433 Rex Delanuez (A-Twins)
- .428 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- .428 Tino Martinez (AAA-Mariners)

TOUGHEST TO FAN

(Plate appearances per strikeout)

- 21.2 Darrell Sherman (AA-Padres)
- 21.1 Fernando Vina (A-Mets)
- 18.6 Chip Hale (AAA-Twins)
- 17.6 Rey Sanchez (AAA-Cubs)

- 17.1 Adam Casillas (AAA-Reds)
- 16.6 Greg Edge (AA-AAA-Pirates)
- 15.8 Jim Eppard (A-Independent)
- 15.1 Eric Young (AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- 15.0 Oscar Azocar (AAA-Padres)
- 14.5 Jose Trujillo (A-Cardinals)
- 14.1 Tim Howard (A-AA-Mets)
- 13.8 Carlos Capellan (AA-Twins)
- 13.7 Paul Ellis (A-Cardinals)
- 13.6 Cesar Bernhardt (AA-AAA-White Sox)
- 13.6 Gary Disarcina (AAA-Angels)

LEADERS BY POSITION

Catchers

- .366 Dave Nilsson (AA-AAA-Brewers)
- .328 Kiki Hernandez (A-Yankees)
- .308 John Ramos (AAA-Yankees)
- .289 Greg Pirkil (A-Mariners)
- .285 Brad Ausmus (A-AA-Yankees)
- .284 Carlos Delgado (A-AAA-Blue Jays)
- .284 John Massarelli (A-AA-AAA-Astros)
- .284 Andy Beasley (A-Cardinals)
- .284 Pedro Lopez (A-Padres)
- .284 Scooter Tucker (AA-Giants)

First Basemen

- .364 Mark Howie (AA-Angels)
- .344 John Jaha (AA-Brewers)
- .339 Jim Eppard (A-Independent)
- .326 Tino Martinez (AAA-Mariners)
- .324 Don Barbara (A-AA-Angels)
- .321 Rick Schu (AAA-Phillies)
- .316 Eric Karros (AAA-Dodgers)
- .316 Archi Cianfrocco (AA-Expos)
- .313 Jim Bowie (AA-AAA-Mariners)
- .313 Domingo Martinez (AAA-Blue Jays)

Second Basemen

- .333 Matt Stairs (AA-Expos)
- .324 Jose Munoz (AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- .316 Andres Santana (AAA-Giants)
- .312 Todd Haney (AAA-Expos)
- .306 Joe Sondrini (A-Pirates)
- .303 Pat Meares (A-Twins)
- .302 Jeff Frye (AA-Rangers)
- .300 Hideyuki Mifune (A-Independent)
- .299 Andy Mota (AAA-Astros)
- .298 Ruben Santana (A-AA-Mariners)

Third Basemen

- .334 Juan Guerrero (AA-Giants)
- .332 Dave Patterson (AA-AAA-Giants)
- .328 Kevin Young (A-AA-Pirates)
- .319 Jim Thome (AA-AAA-Indians)
- .316 Chad Curtis (AAA-Angels)
- .308 Pedro Castellano (A-AA-Cubs)
- .305 Gary Cooper (AAA-Astros)
- .302 Scott Livingstone (AAA-Tigers)
- .301 Marty Brown (AAA-Indians)
- .298 Terry Jorgensen (AAA-Twins)

Shortstops

- .346 Rich Amaral (AAA-Mariners)
- .326 Chipper Jones (A-Braves)
- .320 Jim Tatum (AA-Brewers)
- .315 Brandon Wilson (A-AA-White Sox)
- .310 Gary Disarcina (AAA-Angels)
- .303 Andujar Cedeno (AAA-Astros)
- .300 Victor Rosario (AAA-Tigers)
- .292 Tim Barker (AA-Dodgers)
- .292 Kim Batiste (AAA-Phillies)

Outfielders

- .346 Derek Bell (AAA-Blue Jays)
- .342 Kyle Washington (A-AA-Indians)
- .341 Matt Mieske (A-Padres)
- .334 Luis Mercedes (AAA-Orioles)
- .329 Patrick Lennon (AAA-Mariners)
- .326 Ruben Amaro (AAA-Angels)
- .325 Jim Olander (AAA-Brewers)
- .322 Geronimo Berroa (AAA-Indians)
- .322 Jeff McNeely (A-Red Sox)
- .322 Midre Cummings (A-Twins)

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

WINS

- 20 Jose Martinez (A-Mets)
- 18 Pedro Martinez (A-AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- 17 Don Vidmar (A-AA-Angels)
- 16 Mark Kiehl (AA-AAA-Brewers)
- 16 Ryan Hawblitzel (A-AA-Cubs)
- 16 John Ray (A-Reds)
- 16 Napoleon Robinson (AA-Braves)
- 16 Dan Carlson (A-Giants)
- 16 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
- 16 Richard Huisman (A-Giants)

ERA

(Minimum 112 innings pitched)

- 1.41 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
- 1.49 Jose Martinez (A-Mets)
- 1.57 Sam Miltello (A-AA-Yankees)
- 1.78 Rodney Bolton (A-AA-White Sox)
- 1.80 Jeff Mutis (AA-Indians)
- 1.83 Wilson Alvarez (AA-White Sox)
- 1.83 Richard Huisman (A-Giants)
- 2.01 David Nied (A-AA-Braves)
- 2.01 Paul Miller (AA-AAA-Pirates)
- 2.05 Donnie Wall (A-Astros)
- 2.06 William Wengert (A-Dodgers)
- 2.11 Joe Roa (A-Braves)
- 2.15 Steve Shifflett (AA-Royals)
- 2.15 Rick Reed (AA-Pirates)

COMPLETE GAMES

- 13 Tom Michno (A-Independent)
- 9 Jose Martinez (A-Mets)
- 8 Tim Smith (A-Red Sox)
- 8 Don Vidmar (A-AA-Angels)
- 8 Rodney Bolton (A-AA-White Sox)
- 8 Steve Sparks (A-AA-Brewers)
- 8 Jim Bullinger (AA-AAA-Cubs)
- 8 Tim Wakefield (AA-Pirates)
- 8 Timber Mead (A-Independent)
- 8 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)

SHUTOUTS

- 4 Rodney Bolton (A-AA-White Sox)
- 4 Jeff Mutis (AA-Indians)
- 4 Lance Painter (A-Padres)
- 4 Richard Huisman (A-Giants)

GAMES

- 73 Roy Bailey (A-Cardinals)
- 72 Bryan Eversperd (A-Cardinals)
- 68 Bob Ayrault (AAA-Phillies)
- 65 Dean Wilkins (AAA-Astros)
- 64 Francisco Alcantara (A-Independent)
- 63 Mike Christopher (AAA-Dodgers)
- 63 Laddie Renfro (AAA-Cubs)
- 63 Steve Long (A-Expos)
- 63 Matt Stevens (A-AA-Phillies)

SAVES

- 41 Michael Soper (A-Indians)
- 35 Rod Huffman (A-Giants)
- 32 Mark Wohlers (AA-AAA-Braves)
- 32 Clyde Keller (A-Cardinals)
- 31 Gary Sharkey (A-Giants)
- 30 John Kelly (A-Cardinals)
- 29 Matt Whiteside (A-Rangers)
- 27 Jim Dougherty (A-Astros)
- 26 Mark Ohlms (A-Yankees)
- 26 Travis Willis (A-Cubs)
- 26 Tim Peck (AA-A's)

INNINGS

- 216 Tom Michno (A-Independent)
- 211 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
- 200 Lance Painter (A-Padres)
- 197 Steve Sparks (A-AA-Brewers)
- 196 Mike Williams (A-AA-Phillies)
- 193 Jose Martinez (A-Mets)
- 193 Rodney Bolton (A-AA-White Sox)
- 192 Frank Cimarelli (A-Cardinals)
- 191 Mike Trombley (AA-Twins)
- 191 Paul Quantrill (AA-AAA-Red Sox)
- 190 Don Vidmar (A-AA-Angels)
- 189 Jim Bullinger (AA-AAA-Cubs)
- 188 Tim Wakefield (AA-Pirates)

STRIKEOUTS

- 216 Richard Huisman (A-Giants)
- 214 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
- 201 Lance Painter (A-Padres)
- 192 Pedro Martinez (AA-AAA-Dodgers)
- 190 Tom Michno (A-Independent)
- 189 John Roper (A-Reds)
- 184 Donnie Elliott (A-Phillies)
- 182 Oscar Munoz (A-AA-Indians)
- 180 Roger Salkeld (AA-AAA-Mariners)
- 178 David Nied (A-AA-Braves)
- 177 Pat Mahomes (AA-AAA-Twins)
- 175 Mike Trombley (AA-Twins)
- 174 Jason Satre (A-AA-Reds)
- 171 Kevin McGehee (A-Giants)

HIGH STRIKEOUT GAMES

- 17 Donnie Elliott (A-Phillies)
- 16 Pat Mahomes (AA-Twins)
- 15 Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
- 15 Todd Douma (A-Mets)
- 15 Greg Gohr (AAA-Tigers)
- 15 Vaughn Eshelman (A-Orioles)

STRIKEOUTS PER 9IP (Minimum 18 starts)

11.3	Mo Sanford (AA-AAA-Reds)
11.1	Otis Green (A-AA-Brewers)
10.7	Richard Huisman (A-Giants)
10.6	Dave Mlicki (A-Indians)
10.5	Donnie Elliott (A-Phillies)
10.1	Sam Miltello (A-AA-Yankees)
10.1	Troy Dovey (A-Astros)
9.8	Hector Fajardo (A-AA-AAA-Pirates)
9.8	Wilson Alvarez (AA-White Sox)
9.7	Pedro Martinez (A-AA-AAA-Dodgers)
9.7	Jason Doss (A-Cubs)
9.7	Arthur Rhodes (AA-Orioles)
9.6	Archie Corbin (AA-Royals)
9.5	Ricardo Jordan (A-Blue Jays)
9.4	David Nied (A-AA-Braves)

STRIKEOUTS PER 9IP (Minimum 40 games)

14.9	Rudy Seanez (AA-AAA-Indians)
14.7	Darryl Scott (A-Angels)
14.2	Trevor Hoffman (A-AA-Reds)
13.6	Brad Pennington (A-Orioles)
12.2	Dennis Fletcher (A-Cardinals)
12.2	Huck Flenner (A-Blue Jays)
11.8	Bob Hurta (A-Astros)
11.8	Don Strange (A-AA-Braves)
11.7	Mike Thomas (A-Expos)
11.7	Doug Platt (AAA-Expos)
11.5	Bruce Benschling (A-Padres)
11.4	Carlos Pulido (A-AAA-Twins)
11.3	Clyde Keller (A-Cardinals)
11.2	Tim Fortugno (AA-AAA-Brewers)
11.0	Ed Zinter (A-Padres)

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 18 starts)	
172	Otis Green (A-AA-Brewers)
187	Rafael Quirino (A-Yankees)
187	Mark Hutton (A-AAA-Yankees)
192	Donnie Wall (A-Astros)
194	Arthur Rhodes (AA-Orioles)
195	Ricardo Jordan (A-Blue Jays)
195	Salomon Torres (A-Giants)
196	Mo Sanford (AA-AAA-Reds)
197	Paul Miller (AA-AAA-Pirates)
199	Sam Miltello (A-AA-Yankees)
200	Wilson Alvarez (AA-White Sox)
200	Richard Huisman (A-Giants)
201	Stacey Burdick (AA-Orioles)
201	Pedro Martinez (A-AA-AAA-Dodgers)

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 40 games)	
137	Darryl Scott (A-Angels)
146	Clyde Keller (A-Cardinals)
163	Julian Vasquez (A-Mets)
166	Edward Ponte (A-Braves)
167	Mark Wohlers (AA-AAA-Braves)
173	Chris Bushing (A-AA-Expos)
173	Scott Duff (A-Reds)
176	Daryl Moore (A-AA-Orioles)
178	Rudy Seanez (AA-AAA-Indians)
181	Bill Taylor (AA-Braves)
181	Pete Bauer (AA-Astros)
181	Matt Stevens (A-AA-Phillies)
182	Dave Rosario (AAA-Yankees)
185	Dean Locklear (A-White Sox)
185	Bob Hurta (A-Astros)

INDIVIDUAL FIELDING MOST ERRORS BY POSITION

Catchers	
27	Kelly Stinnett (A-Indians)
21	Henry Mercedes (A-A's)

First Basemen	
25	Rafael Mercado (A-A's)
22	Jim Dismuke (A-Reds)
22	Roberto Petagine (A-Astros)
22	Jay Gainer (A-Padres)

Second Basemen	
47	Ernesto Rodriguez (A-Blue Jays)
40	Rich Turrentine (A-Yankees)
35	John Cotton (A-Indians)

Third Basemen	
48	Corey Kapano (A-Angels)
47	Ignacio Duran (A-Cardinals)
40	Kevin Young (A-AA-AAA-Pirates)

Shortstops	
60	Mariano Dotel (A-Blue Jays)

56	Chipper Jones (A-Braves)
54	Cesar Morillo (A-Royals)
Outfielders	
17	Jay Davis (A-Mets)
16	Derek Bell (AAA-Blue Jays)
15	Jason Robertson (A-Yankees)
15	Matt Mieske (A-Padres)

SHORT SEASON TEAM STATISTICS HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE

304	Idaho Falls (Braves)
302	Salt Lake (Independent)
293	Arizona Brewers
293	Helena (Brewers)
286	Arizona Mariners

LOWEST BATTING AVERAGE

212	Gulf Coast Mets
222	Gulf Coast Blue Jays
226	Gulf Coast White Sox
227	Bellingham (Mariners)
228	Watertown (Indians)

MOST HOME RUNS

60	Erie (Independent)
59	Elmira (Red Sox)
59	Idaho Falls (Braves)

FEWEST HOME RUNS

2	Gulf Coast Dodgers
4	Gulf Coast Mets

BEST ERA

2.78	Gulf Coast White Sox
2.84	Elizabethton (Twins)
2.89	Gulf Coast Rangers
2.97	Gulf Coast Orioles
3.02	Gulf Coast Blue Jays

WORST ERA

6.30	Pocatello (Independent)
6.14	Arizona Giants
5.77	Butte (Rangers)
5.51	Idaho Falls (Braves)
5.50	Spokane (Padres)

INDIVIDUAL BATTING LONGEST HITTING STREAKS

25	Derrick White (Expos)
21	John Roberts (Padres)

BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 184 plate appearances)	
373	Andy Fairman (Brewers)
371	Dario Paulino (Braves)
367	Mike Basse (Brewers)
365	Kevin Wong (Independent)
364	Michael Stefanski (Brewers)

HOME RUNS

19	Manuel Ramirez (Indians)
15	Leon Glenn (Independent)
12	Felix Colon (Red Sox)
12	Tim Moore (Twins)
12	Lance Marks (Braves)
12	Osborne Timmons (Cubs)

RUNS BATTED IN

71	Rick Hirtenstein (Independent)
64	Ben Castillo (Independent)
63	Manuel Ramirez (Indians)
62	Andy Fairman (Brewers)
62	Mike Daniel (Expos)

STOLEN BASES

60	James Mouton (Astros)
56	Vernon Spearman (Dodgers)
44	Abdiel Cumberbatch (Yankees)
40	Quilvio Veras (Mets)
38	Craig Hawkins (Twins)

HITS

105	Rick Hirtenstein (Independent)
105	Robert Butler (Blue Jays)
102	Rick Juday (Independent)
100	Jeff Cirillo (Brewers)
100	Andy Fairman (Brewers)

DOUBLES

29	Ben Castillo (Independent)
25	Murph Proctor (Dodgers)
23	Darrel Deak (Cardinals)
23	John O'Brien (Cardinals)
22	Andy Fairman (Brewers)

TRIPLES

10	Lino Connell (Angels)
10	James Mouton (Astros)
8	Rick Hirtenstein (Independent)
8	Howard House (Brewers)

SLUGGING

679	Manuel Ramirez (Indians)
569	Matt Brewer (Giants)
563	Rick Hirtenstein (Independent)
561	Steve Cerio (Cardinals)
553	Darrel Deak (Cardinals)

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE

468	James Bonnici (Mariners)
463	Andy Fairman (Brewers)
454	Rob Leary (A's)
452	Luis Aracena (A's)
451	David Rolls (Independent)

TOUGHEST TO FAN

(Plate appearances per strikeout)	
19.6	Jesus Garces (Phillies)
18.4	Ed Alfonso (Mets)
16.3	Robert Butler (Blue Jays)
15.0	Kevin Griak (Braves)
14.6	Orlando Palmeiro (Angels)

LEADERS BY POSITION

Catchers	
364	Michael Stefanski (Brewers)
359	Steve Cerio (Cardinals)
326	David Rolls (Independent)

First Basemen

373	Andy Fairman (Brewers)
331	James Bonnici (Mariners)
328	Derrick White (Expos)

Second Basemen

371	Dario Paulino (Braves)
338	Rick Juday (Independent)
332	Quilvio Veras (Mets)

Third Basemen

350	Jeff Cirillo (Brewers)
338	Joe Randa (Royals)
327	Elston Hansen (Yankees)

Shortstops

348	Pat Garrigan (Independent)
347	Tony Graffagnino (Braves)
347	Manuel Cora (Padres)

Outfielders

367	Mike Basse (Brewers)
356	Rick Hirtenstein (Independent)
350	Mike Neill (A's)

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING WINS

10	George Glinatsis (Mariners)
10	Heath Haynes (Expos)
10	Chris Shanahan (Mets)

ERA

(Minimum 54 Innings)	
1.05	Julian Heredia (Angels)
1.12	Ihovsky Marquez (Orioles)
1.16	Brian Looney (Expos)
1.25	Mike Cal (White Sox)
1.33	Cesar Martinez (Red Sox)

COMPLETE GAMES

5	Albert Montoya (Blue Jays)
5	Adrian Sanchez (Cubs)

GAMES

33	Benjamin Short (Yankees)
33	Bryan Manicchia (Phillies)
31	Kevin Lucero (Cardinals)

SAVES

16	Cory Bailey (Red Sox)
16	Troy Konerman (Cardinals)
14	Benjamin Short (Yankees)
13	Gerald Santos (Cardinals)

INNINGS

105	Adrian Sanchez (Cubs)
103	Ottis Smith (Mets)
102	Chris Shanahan (Mets)
100	Pedro Perez (Cubs)
99	Chris Davis (Red Sox)

STRIKEOUTS

106	Eddie Guardado (Twins)
102	Mike Lynch (Independent)
99	Julian Heredia (Angels)
96	Korey Keling (Angels)

HIGH STRIKEOUT GAMES

15	Ihovsky Marquez (Orioles)
15	Mark Stephens (Independent)
15	Kevin Lomon (Braves)

STRIKEOUTS PER 9IP

(Minimum 8 starts)	
13.6	Jason Butler (Braves)
12.2	Todd Fiegl (Mets)
11.7	Michael Hostetler (Braves)

11.4	Tyrone Hill (Brewers)
11.1	Michael Bovee (Royals)
11.1	Sandy Diaz (Twins)

STRIKEOUTS PER 9IP (Minimum 17 games)

17.0	David Lisiecki (Mariners)
15.3	Gerald Santos (Cardinals)
14.9	Heath Haynes (Expos)
14.8	Troy Percival (Angels)
13.9	Rob Adkins (Blue Jays)

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 8 starts)	
140	Ihovsky Marquez (Orioles)
157	Keith Millay (A's)
159	Al Watson (Cardinals)
161	Eric Lairsey (Braves)
162	Mike Hampton (Mariners)

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

(Minimum 17 games)	
137	Marc Pisciotto (Pirates)
147	Cory Bailey (Red Sox)
147	Joe Crawford (Mets)
153	David Lisiecki (Mariners)
154	Marc Kubicki (White Sox)

SOURCE: Howe Sportsdata International

ORGANIZATIONAL STANDINGS — 1991

RANK	TEAM	W	L	PCT
1.	Los Angeles Dodgers (7)	424	323	.568
2.	Atlanta Braves (7)	429	333	.563
3.	Milwaukee Brewers (6)	379	304	.555
4.	Montreal Expos (7)	457	371	.552
5.	San Francisco Giants (6)	378	307	.552
6.	New York Mets (7)	406	349	.538
7.	Cleveland Indians (6)	376	327	.535
8.	California Angels (6)	355	324	.523
9.	New York Yankees (7)	433	395	.523
10.	Baltimore Orioles (6)	354	331	.517
11.	Philadelphia Phillies (6)	353	346	.505
12.	Oakland Athletics (6)	348	342	.504
13.	Chicago Cubs (6)	357	354	.502
14.	Chicago White Sox (6)	339	344	.496
15.	San Diego Padres (7)	408	418	.494
16.	Houston Astros (7)	400	415	.491
17.	Cincinnati Reds (6)	345	357	.491
18.	Minnesota Twins (6)	334	349	.489
19.	Pittsburgh Pirates (6)	338	365	.481
20.	Kansas City Royals (6)	327	367	.471
21.	Detroit Tigers (6)	323	369	.467
22.	Boston Red Sox (6)	316	371	.460
23.	Seattle Mariners (6)	316	374	.458
24.	Toronto Blue Jays (7)	349	414	.457
25.	Independents (7)	314	379	.453
26.	Texas Rangers (6)	300	383	.439
27.	St. Louis Cardinals (8)	370	517	.417

(Number of farm teams in parentheses)

ORGANIZATIONAL STANDINGS — 1987-91

RANK	TEAM	W	L	PCT
1.	Los Angeles Dodgers	2196	1718	.561
2.	Milwaukee Brewers	1870	1482	.559
3.	Montreal Expos	2007	1738	.536
4.	Cleveland Indians	1790	1560	.534
5.	San Francisco Giants	1842	1653	.527
6.	New York Mets	1970	1779	.525
7.	New York Yankees	2031	1857	.522
8.	Cincinnati Reds	1806	1671	.519
9.	Chicago White Sox	1759	1636	.518
10.	Baltimore Orioles	1540	1474	.511
11.	Minnesota Twins	1694	1640	.508
12.	Atlanta Braves	2213	2155	.507
13.	Pittsburgh Pirates	1866	1845	.503
14.	Chicago Cubs	1907	1902	.501
15.	San Diego Padres	1834	1838	.499
16.	Kansas City Royals	1776	1783	.499
17.	Oakland Athletics	1762	1782	.497
18.	Houston Astros	1797	1826	.496
19.	St. Louis Cardinals	2143	2216	.492
20.	Detroit Tigers	1639	1704	.490
21.	California Angels	1675	1772	.486
22.	Texas Rangers	1665	1773	.484
23.	Toronto Blue Jays	1785	1941	.479
24.	Seattle Mariners	1651	1825	.475
25.	Philadelphia Phillies	1581	1854	.460
26.	Boston Red Sox	1448	1900	.432

DIGGING IN

By Patrick Reusse

Many years ago, when asked to assess the fielding ability of his outfielders, New York Mets manager Casey Stengel said: "They leap for 'em and they ain't there."

It might be advisable for the Mets to adopt that bit of Stengelese as the team's theme for the 1992 season. The situation in major league baseball is such that, for a mere \$48.5 million distributed on the free-agent market, you can assemble a fielding team that would have turned ole Casey mute in horror.

The National Baseball Club of New York started its quest to assemble Amazin' Mets II in the winter of 1990-91, after losing Darryl Strawberry to the Dodgers. It cost \$12 million for the Mets to add Vince Coleman. It is difficult to say what the Mets liked best about Vince: his brutal outfielding, his surly personality or his indifference toward being in the lineup. The past winter, the Mets became more aggressive, making Bobby Bonilla the game's highest-paid player with a \$29 million contract, and signing Eddie Murray for \$7.5 million.

All of those millions, and what do the Mets have? Coleman, a lousy leftfielder, will be in center field. He will be surrounded by Bonilla, a guy who might have to file for general assistance if he was paid for his glove, and Howard Johnson, a transplanted third baseman. The right side of the infield has two fellows not far removed from filing for Social Security: Murray and second baseman Willie Randolph. They better grow the infield grass long at Shea Stadium this summer.

Didn't anybody in New York notice who won the World Series last fall? The Minnesota Twins were there because, all season long, game after game, they gave an opponent 27 outs, while the opposition was giving the Twins 31 or 32 outs by kicking routine balls, blowing double plays, throwing to wrong bases. Play the game right, and you have a chance to win. Throw your money around like an idiot, and you can spend \$48.5 million to put a sixth-place defense behind a first-place pitching staff.

For 17 years, we have been told that free agency and exploding salaries would make baseball the private domain of large-market teams that could afford to corner the market on stars. This has not happened, because the large-market teams have been extremely stupid in the manner in which they have spent their resources. They gave Al Harazin unlimited assets in New York, and he came up with an outfield anchored by Vince Coleman. They gave Lou Gorman unlimited assets in Boston, and he spent \$31 million on Frank Viola (13-15), Matt Young (3-7) and Danny Dar-

win (3-6). Al Rosen spent \$35 million for Willie McGee, Bud Black and Dave Righetti, and the Giants scratched and battled their way to fourth place.

The Yankees re-opened their free-agent bank account, and spent the first \$25.5 million on Danny Tartabull, who is equally adept at hitting and malingering. Now that he has \$25.5 million, which course do you assume is likely for Tartabull?

Andy MacPhail, Twins general manager, has helped to maneuver Minnesota to two World Series championships in five seasons. When it comes to local radio and television revenue, Minnesota is a small market. "My fear has been a large-market team with its resources well-applied," MacPhail says. "If those organizations make the strongest possible commitment to player development and then fill in with a star-quality free agent or two, that finally would be the end of competitive balance."

"I reached that conclusion when I saw the minor league complex the Yankees had developed in Tampa. I thought, 'If the Yankees keep going this route, with the money they have, they are going to blow everyone out of the water.'"

Never underestimate the idiocy of a large-market team. The latest word is the Yankees are cutting back in player development and re-emphasizing the tried-and-failed method of giving five-year contracts to players who produce best when in the final season of their contracts. "The Yankees already had three outfielders, and they outbid everyone else for Tartabull by more than \$5 million," MacPhail says. "I have to admit that I don't get it."

Join the multitudes, Mr. MacPhail. We don't get it, either. We don't get why a commissioner can spend time jabbering about his opposition to the designated hitter, an irrelevant issue, and stay mum when Seattle, a city that supported its team 2 million strong last season, is being threatened with abandonment by the American League.

Jeff Smulyan did not have the deep pockets to buy a baseball franchise. He did have the ego. This genius overpaid for the Mariners, leveraged the purchase, and now Seattle is supposed to ante up for his foolishness — or suffer the consequences. Just when the Pacific Northwest was showing strong interest in baseball, Mr. Slick Shortpockets was scheming to move to St. Petersburg, Fla., claiming the game never will make it in Seattle. And isn't it funny that Smulyan's buddy in Chicago, the duplicitous Jerry Reinsdorf, was all too eager to join the Mariners-to-Florida campaign? It wouldn't have anything to do with Reinsdorf twice stiffing St. Petersburg, would it? He

reneged on a deal to move the White Sox there, and failed to deliver the city an expansion club.

A Seattle group surfaced in January offering \$100 million cash for the Mariners. Wouldn't you know it, the accidental commissioner, Fay Vincent, quickly found an excuse to shoot down the plan because 60 percent of the money emanated from a Japan-based corporation. While Vincent takes every opportunity to decry baseball's sordid record in minority hiring, he's not about to let an Asian slip into the owners' country club.

There has to be a formula for sharing the television revenue, something that falls between the NFL's communist system and baseball's free-for-all. Hey, I got it, Fay: The Yankees, Mets, Cubs, Dodgers and every other club get to keep half their local revenues. The other half goes into the pot, with 28 equal shares. Since the other team is half of the attraction when it plays the Yankees, it should be entitled to half the Yankees' local TV revenue — \$25 million of \$50 million annually.

That wasn't so tough to figure out, Fay. Stop sitting around and reading Bart Giamatti's poetry — retch! — and get on it.

While Vincent is straightening out the morons in management, perhaps Don Fehr, executive director of the MLBPA (Major League Brats and Prima-donnas Association), could pause for a moment from filing grievances on behalf of such exemplary role models as Otis Nixon. Maybe Fehr ought to remind the jerks in his union that with multi-million-dollar contracts comes an obligation to be in the lineup and to perform — every night.

The Twins-Braves tournament last fall has been declared the greatest World Series in history. The excitement level was high, the quality of play outstanding. There was a third, more important reason that Series was so well-received: 50 players in the dugouts actually cared. Every fly ball was pursued into the gap and onto the fences, every double play was made through a hard slide, every tag at the plate had to withstand a serious collision.

This was a World Series to remember, because for seven nights we were not able to look at the field and say, "Check out the guy in left... another lazy, jacking millionaire, and if the manager tries to do anything about it, Fehr will file a grievance."

By the way, what are you waiting for, Don? Let's drum up some support for Steve Howe. After all, doesn't this eight-time loser deserve another chance? □

Patrick Reusse is a sports columnist for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.



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